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TWELVE PAGES — ONE RIYAL

To Our Readers

Beginning early next year the **arab news** stocks page will be transmitted from London every night and appear the next morning with full details on the markets' closings.

Readers who are interested in charting the progress of a stock on a major world market are requested to write **Arab News** with details so that it can be included — free of charge — in the listings.

Please send the names before Dec. 31 to

The Financial Editor
Arab News
P.O. Box 4556
Jeddah

VISIT: King Khaled Tuesday received Sheikh Faisal Al-Thani, the visiting Qatari minister of agriculture and industry. He also received Habib Chatti, the secretary general of the 42-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference. The meetings were attended by the King's Special Adviser Dr. Rashad Pharaon. Earlier in the day, the King received a delegation of the chiefs of Ghamed and Zahran tribes as well as a large number of citizens from various parts of the Kingdom. The tribal chiefs greeted King Khaled and congratulated him for the cleaning of the Holy Haram and renewed their allegiance to him. In the meantime, Second Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard Prince Abdullah conferred in the morning with U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia John West on means of fostering bilateral ties.



Over Israel links

Sudan may cut Egypt ties

KHARTOUM, Dec. 18 (AP)—Sudan has begun to pave the way for breaking diplomatic ties with Egypt by pulling out its ambassador in Cairo and appointing him to a foreign ministry post, the official Sudanese news agency reported Tuesday.

Egypt and Israel are scheduled to establish diplomatic relations in February, and Sudan has said that when the Israeli flag goes up in Cairo it will be calling home its top diplomats from the Cairo embassy.

Sudan was one of Egypt's few remaining

Arab backers, but recently began criticizing the Egyptian-Israeli peace efforts after the Arab summit in Tunis last month.

Ambassador Muhammad Mirghani will be replacing the present minister of state for foreign affairs Frances Deng, who has been appointed ambassador to Canada, the agency said.

Egypt's Ambassador to Khartoum Sadelein Fotahi has also left his embassy, reportedly on vacation in Egypt, but diplomatic circles do not expect him to return to Sudan.

Death blamed on 'CIA, Savak'

Khomeini aide shot dead on Tehran street

TEHRAN, Dec. 18 (Agencies)—A leading Islamic theologian and former pupil of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was shot dead Tuesday by unknown gunmen in a central Tehran street.

Iranian leaders immediately branded the slaying of Dr. Muhammad Mofateh as agents of the United States.

Dr. Mofateh, a senior member of the ruling clergy, was shot and wounded as he stepped into his car Tuesday morning to enter the Islamic Theological School of which he was rector. His two guards were also hit and died later in the hospital.

Eyewitnesses said Dr. Mofateh managed to drag himself into the building but the gunmen, believed to number two or three, followed him in, shot in the head and escaped on motorcycles. He died in hospital after a two-hour operation.

No one has claimed responsibility for this killing. But the ruling Revolutionary Council said in a statement: "Hojatoleslam Or. Muhammad Mofateh was the target of the bullets of the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) and Savak (the former Shah's secret police)."

Although a hojatoleslam, Dr. Mofateh was universally known by the senior clerical rank

of Ayatollah.

The statement added: "The enemy, which fears the Islamic movement, has agents to cause disruption. They sometimes aim at the sons of the revolution in order to sap the strength of the revolution, ignorant of the fact that any drop of Islamic militant's blood helps grow tulips of life and victory and strengthens the resistance of the people."

Dr. Mofateh, believed to have been in his 50s, was exiled and jailed under the former Shah and after the revolution was believed to have served on the first secret Revolutionary Council.

Meeting with Carter

Thatcher backs Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (R)—Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Tuesday pledged Britain's support if the United States asks the U.N. Security Council to impose economic sanctions against Iran to force the release of American hostages. Mrs. Thatcher leaves Washington Tuesday for New York, where she was paying a working visit to the United Nations.

At a news conference Monday after her first official talks in Washington as prime minister, Mrs. Thatcher said she promised President Jimmy Carter Britain's support if the United States asked the security council for sanctions against Iran.

She told reporters that while Britain would back U.N. sanctions against Iran, she could not guarantee that it could support U.S.

Carter prays for hostages

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—President Jimmy Carter lit a Hanukkah menorah in a Washington park Monday night and said the celebration's commitments to life and freedom "are ever-present in the hearts and minds of all Americans" while 50 hostages remain at the embassy in Tehran.

A menorah is a seven-candle candelabra which Jews light during Hanukkah, the annual feast of lights commemorating a Jewish victory over the Assyrians during the second century B.C.

In below-freezing weather Monday night, Carter visited Lafayette Park, at the north end of the White House, where a 10-meter electronic menorah was erected to celebrate the eight-day Jewish feast of lights.

"These commitments to life and to be free are ever-present in the hearts and minds of all Americans because we know that 50 of our fellow human beings, our fellow citizens, are not free and they want to live," he said.

economic reprisals if the council failed to act.

Mrs. Thatcher repeated her pledge at a formal state dinner at the White House Monday night.

Commenting on the crisis in Iran, where 50 American hostages are being held by students at the U.S. embassy, she said, "I'm very much aware, Mr. President, of the ordeal that the United States is going through."

"It's a double ordeal, for the fate of the 50 hostages in Tehran, from whom our thoughts are never far, and for the temper of the United States as a whole."

She added, "I'd be giving a false impression if I allowed the evening to proceed any further without letting you know how much we in Britain support you in your ordeal at this time."

In his toast Carter drew a parallel between the hostage situation and guerrilla action in Northern Ireland. He promised a continued strong American stand against what he called such terrorism.

He referred to "terrorism, the harming of innocent people to meet political goals, and indeed quite often unworthy ones."

"She (Mrs. Thatcher) is dealing on a daily basis with terrorism in Northern Ireland," the president said.

"We stand staunchly beside her in condemning bloodshed and violence, death and murder, and I hope that our country will always be of assistance to her and to the leaders of Great Britain in dealing with this threat."

Earlier Tuesday, U.S. and British officials said Mrs. Thatcher made a strong appeal to the president to lift the unannounced ban on sales of weapons to the Northern Ireland police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

They said that Carter responded only that the matter was still under study.

The dinner capped Mrs. Thatcher's first full day in Washington.

Oil profit tax passes U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—The "windfall profits" tax passed by the U.S. Senate which would tax the oil industry \$99 billion less than a House of Representatives version, is heading into a congressional negotiating committee with little prospect for a compromise this year.

The task facing the Senate-House conference committee is to hammer out a measure that over the next 11 years will cost the American oil industry somewhere between the \$178 billion voted by the Senate and the \$277 billion passed by the House. The conferees will be under pressure to make sure the oil industry is provided ample incentives to increase production.

By rough estimate, the Senate bill, passed 74-24

Monday night, would capture about 38 per cent of the net "windfall" expected to be taken by the oil industry in the 1980s because of President Jimmy Carter's decision to remove federal price controls from U.S. crude oil.

The House-passed bill would take about 61 per cent. The president, who proposed the tax told reporters at a state dinner Monday night he was glad the bill passed the Senate.

But a statement released by the White House also said the Senate bill "falls considerably short of the House bill."

"We will continue to push for a strong ... bill which is fair to producers, consumers and taxpayers," it said.

Gold, dollar both mixed

LONDON, Dec. 18 (AP)—Gold prices hit a new record in London and then fell slightly Tuesday, as the dollar eased in trading on European markets nervous over higher oil prices.

Trading in bullion was busy, one dealer said.

Gold opened at \$475 an ounce, \$1 up from Monday's all-time peak, and \$5 up from the closing price. But the metal fell back to \$473.50 by the end of the day. However, that was still a record for its closing.

A key factor on the European market has been the Venezuela meeting of the oil-producing nations. Some observers see the latest gold boom as a new lack of confidence in the U.S. dollar as a medium, in particular, for oil payments.

Dealers are still anticipating that gold will reach \$500 an ounce early in 1980.

In Tokyo, the dollar gained, recovering by nearly five Japanese yen from a dip earlier in the day.

The dollar closed at 241.40 yen, up from Monday's 239.80 yen.

Tokyo dealers attributed the dollar's sudden recovery to a combination of factors including possible oil production cuts.

In record time

Microwave project finished

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, Dec. 18—Saudi Arabia's vast microwave relay project which links the Kingdom together by telephone has been completed in record time, the minister of posts, telephones and telegraph says.

The 10,000 kilometer, 35,000 channel network was completed in 30 months, Dr. Alawi Darwish Kayyal told **Arab News**, a much shorter time than it has taken for similar projects in other countries such as Australia and Iran.

The 300 station network allows telephone subscribers in Saudi Arabia to make 35,000 long distance calls within the Kingdom at any one time, he said, and in addition the network carries two television channels.

It also includes facilities for telex, telegraph and radio transmission, he said.

"The network's stations have been built under the most diverse climatic conditions—in the desert, in valleys and on mountain tops," he said. The system now has stations in 80 towns and cities across the country.

The microwave system was built by the American firm Western Electric, which won the right to contract the job over strenuous competition from European telecommunications firms.

Comparatively, Dr. Kayyal said, an Australian microwave system took ten years to complete, even though it only involved a distance of 2,500 kilometers. And in Iran, he said, a system with 200 stations took four years to complete.

One feature of the system is a 350 kilometer link with Sudan across the Red Sea, although in most cases microwave stations only have a range of 50 to 150 kilometers.

"We have carried out a unique experiment by linking Saudi Arabia to the Sudan through the microwave network—the longest link in the world between two stations without relays," he said.

The link was made possible by the erection of tall towers on Dacca Mountain near Taif and Erba Mountain near Port Sudan, he said.

But Dr. Kayyal said the microwave network is only one phase of Saudi Arabia's progress in telecommunications.

The huge telephone project now underway in the Kingdom will add 500,000 lines to 75 cities and villages around the country, and about 45 of them have already seen the benefits of the expansion project, he said.

A quarter of a million new lines have already been installed, and exchange facilities and facilities for international calls have been designed to cater to expected demand for the next 25 years, he said.

In addition, a third communications satellite station is nearing completion near Riyadh

to improve Saudi communications with the rest of the world.

And as a backup for the microwave system, the Kingdom's coaxial cable network is being expanded from 1,800 to 10,000 channels for simultaneous conversations.

Dr. Kayyal also said the ministry hopes soon to be able to offer other modern communications services through the telephone network, such as data transmission from computer to computer, and transmission of facsimiles through telephone circuits. The latter would allow newspapers edited in one city, for example, to be printed in a number of other points.

He said he expects that such services will be in operation within a year.



Dr. Kayyal

In Caracas

Oil ministers deadlock

By Bob Lebling and Jim Landers

CARACAS, Dec. 18—Chances for an agreement on oil prices at the OPEC ministers conference here faded quickly Tuesday as oil ministers entered their final day of formal deliberations apparently deadlocked on the question of a unified pricing system.

OPEC delegates began considering the thorny pricing issue for the first time Tuesday morning, but sources here say little chance for a compromise before the meeting was slated to end later in the day.

Venezuelan Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Berti told reporters before the session that the conference was due to wrap up Tuesday without a pricing agreement.

"But that's not so bad," he said, predicting the members' varying price levels would be due to price differentials rather than surcharges.

There were strong indications that the moderate position of Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—all of whom were pressing for an Arabian light market price of \$34 a barrel—was on the verge of breaking up under pressure from the OPEC "hawks."

Libya, Algeria, Nigeria, Iran and others favor a market price differential that would keep their prices substantially higher than the \$24 level.

After Monday night's ministerial session, Calderon Berti told reporters he expected the question of a unified pricing system to be studied in depth by OPEC's long-term strategy committee immediately following the formal conference.

Calderon said he believed all the OPEC ministers agreed on the need for a pricing system which would take into account world

inflation and currency fluctuations.

Even the industrialized countries would benefit from such a system, the minister said.

Speaking to reporters from Western countries, Calderon said "if you make a big effort to control inflation, oil is going to be very cheap."

Calderon said the strategy committee—which is chaired by Saudi Arabia—would probably meet here Wednesday.

If an agreement on a pricing system emerges from the committee, "we can have an extraordinary meeting (of OPEC) at the beginning of next year—some time in the first quarter," Calderon said.

Monday night, Saudi Arabia was standing firm in its efforts to win general agreement on a \$24 market price.

Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani told journalists he regarded Saudi Arabia's \$24 price as "the ceiling."

Commenting on those OPEC states that have already exceeded this level, Yamani said "they will come down sooner or later." Meanwhile Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah told **Arab News** Monday night he believed a general agreement on prices at the current meeting was "not likely."

Al-Sabah said there was a good chance OPEC would agree on new mechanisms for protecting the developing countries from the effects of higher oil prices—a subject that was being discussed by the oil ministers in their Tuesday session.

Venezuela and Algeria have proposed a \$20 billion OPEC bank for this purpose.

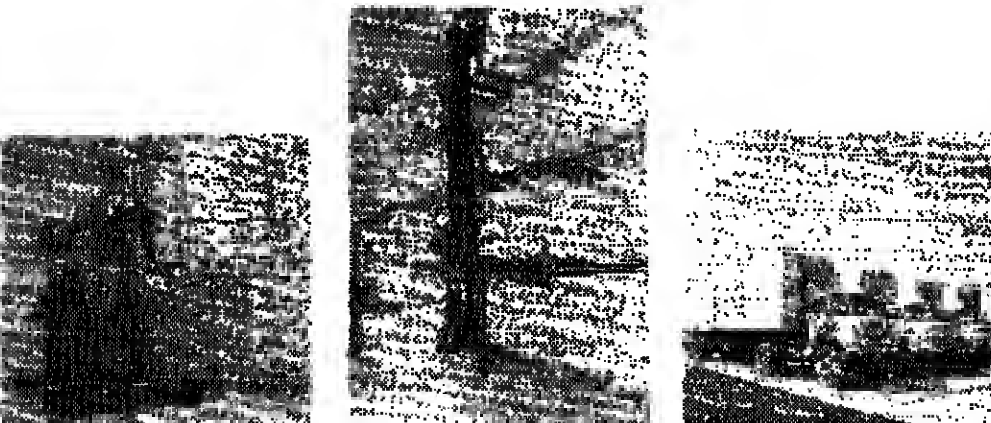
Al-Sabah also said he doubted the ministers would agree on a basket of currencies for oil sales or on a plan to curtail the international oil spot market.



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Describes attackers' strategies

Siege general praises performance of troops

JEDDAH, Dec. 18 — The Commander of the combined forces in Mecca Great Mosque siege, Commander of the Special Security Forces Gen. Muhammad ibn Hilal, has said the military ability of the troops that took part in the incident was encouraging.

He said Tuesday in an interview with *Al-Jezira* that their morale was high and that they were faithful in carrying out orders, reflecting their true loyalty to the government and people of Saudi Arabia.

Adoption offered to child of martyr

JEDDAH, Dec. 18 — A Saudi Arabian has offered to adopt an orphaned child of one of the martyrs in the siege at the Holy Haram.

The unidentified citizen contacted *Al-Medina* newspaper to make the offer. He left home and office telephone numbers, according to the newspaper.

Mecca deputy rules out foreign hand in attack

MECCA, Dec. 18 — No foreign country or organization was in any way connected to the siege of the Holy Haram, Deputy Governor of Mecca Prince Saud ibn Abdul Mohsen has said.

He said that "the renegades were possessed by the devil and acted entirely on their own account."

He was quoted by *Al-Nadwa* Tuesday as saying that investiga-

he and his men had been given by the public. Some people who lived near the Holy Haram had let soldiers occupy their houses after their evacuation.

Officials and men from the army, the National Guard and the Special Forces, assisted by reinforcements from the Public Security and the National Guard, took part in the fighting.

Their coordination was an example of brotherhood. And why not, when their objective was before their eyes, serving Islam, the King and their nation? ibn Hilal asked.

He pointed to the weaknesses and strengths of the military tactics used by the attackers. It was in their favor that they chose positions from where they could control the mosque and around it, they chose fortified areas for protection from government forces, they were well dispersed in strategic places in all sides and they had a complete knowledge of the Haram's geography.

Their weakness was a lack of

proper communications. They had no radio and contacted each other by throwing small stones, sending messengers or using hand signals. This split them up during the shooting, leaving them without coordination.

They did not have sufficient supplies and rationing had to be introduced in an ever-decreasing quantity.

They had no medical aid, doctors or trained medical personnel. Another weakness was their inadequate knowledge of the tactics of retreat. Their going into the basement of the mosque gave government forces complete control and denied them freedom of maneuver.

The ignorance and naivete of women and children were exploited for first aid and to distribute ammunition, food and messages.

Ibn Hilal said the attackers had large quantities of ammunition and food for their numbers. Government forces found cars carrying ammunition in one of the tunnels underground. That, in addition to the ammunition stored in the small basement rooms, could have lasted them for a long time.

Their surrender or rather arrest, was not because of any shortage of food, ammunition or arms, but a result of a sound military plan which caught them inside their retreats.

He added that they had pretended to give up and then shot at the government forces. The first time it happened one of the attackers surrendered to a soldier. When he was closer, he fired at the soldier and wounded him in the

thigh. From then on the government was wary.

The attacker was later taken alive. They tried the trick several times at night, seeking safety and raising their hands while hiding arms, but they failed.

Ibn Hilal said that the troops first called on the attackers to surrender, before firing a single shot. They repeated the appeals every hour between the attackers retre-

Abdul Wasie cables King on end of Mecca assault

RIYADH, Dec. 18 (SPA) — Minister of Pilgrimage and Endowments Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasie Mooday sent a cable of congratulations to King Khalid, on behalf of his ministry's

More martyrs' donations given

RIYADH, Dec. 18 (SPA) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Prince Mithqal the head of the donations committee for the martyrs of the Holy Haram, Monday received the sixth list of donations. It included:

SR1 million from an anonymous donor;

SR1 million from Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan;

SR1 million from the Korean company Han Yang;

SR1 million from Alesayi trading company;

SR1 million from Sheikh Abdul Latif Jamil;

SR500,000 from Said Abdullah Al-Sayed and Sons Trading;

SR300,000 from Prince Bandar ibn Ahmad Al-Sudairi;

SR300,000 from Abdullah Abdul Mohsen Al-Khedri;

SR200,000 from Muhammad aod Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Subayri;

SR100,000 from Sheikh Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al-Ibrahim, the governor of Baha;

SR150,000 from Muhammad Abdul Rahman Al-Dannan and his brothers and Hussein Estwisi;

SR100,000 from Sulaiman and Abdul Mohsen Al-Rassisi;

SR100,000 from Juwaydi ibn Foton;

SR50,000 from Muhammad Ibrahim Al-Issa;

SR50,000 from Muhammad, Abdul Rahman and Abdul Hafez ibn Shayhoun;

SR50,000 from Siddiq and Muhammad Attar Company;

SR50,000 anonymously;

SR40,000 from Sheikh Muhammad Said Amoudi and Adnan;



RECEIVES: King Khalid receives (above in Riyadh Monday Lebanese Minister of Labor Nazem Al-Qaderi and Minister of Education Butros Harb, and (below) Sherif Zaid ibn Hassan ibn Nasser, head of the Foreign Press Department at the Jordanian Ministry of Information.



Saudi Comment

By Ibrahim Al-Dualej
Al-Medina

There was a quick and gratifying response to the proposal by one of our columnists, Hassan Abdul Hayy Gazzaz, that a committee be formed to manage the donations for the families of soldiers killed in the battle for the Holy Mosque in Mecca.

Apart from generous donations, one man offered to take care of two orphaned daughters and bring them up. Another offered to bring up a baby boy. These feelings show one thing: that the people of this country feel strongly for each other through thick and thin.

It is as good as impossible for any writer to describe his feelings about the overwhelming response, those offers of aid and the sharing of woe and suffering that have been demonstrated since the tragedy.

By Abdullah Omar Khayat
Al-Jezira

Until a few years ago taxi drivers and taxi owners

here used to take good care of their cars. They were always reasonably clean and well maintained. After each fare they would clean it and wipe out anything left behind. Before they start their day they would as a rule wash it and wipe it clean.

That was some time ago. Nowadays most taxis are filthy and neglected, as if echoing the complacent and nonchalant attitude of their owners and drivers.

For those who do not need a taxi to take them to and from the airport or anywhere else, this may not be so upsetting. But for those who have to use taxis, and for foreign visitors as well, the condition of taxis is awful. Their owners have little interest beside exploiting their passengers.

I believe it is up to the Traffic Department to supervise the condition of these cars to ensure their tidiness and roadworthiness at all times. As many as possible should be airconditioned.

It is an idea that I wish to submit to the authorities. I hope it will be studied in the service of the country and those visiting it.

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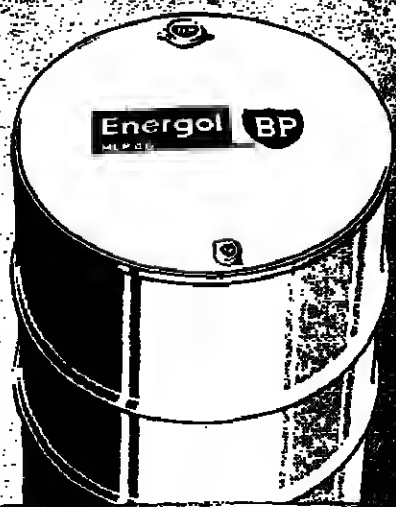
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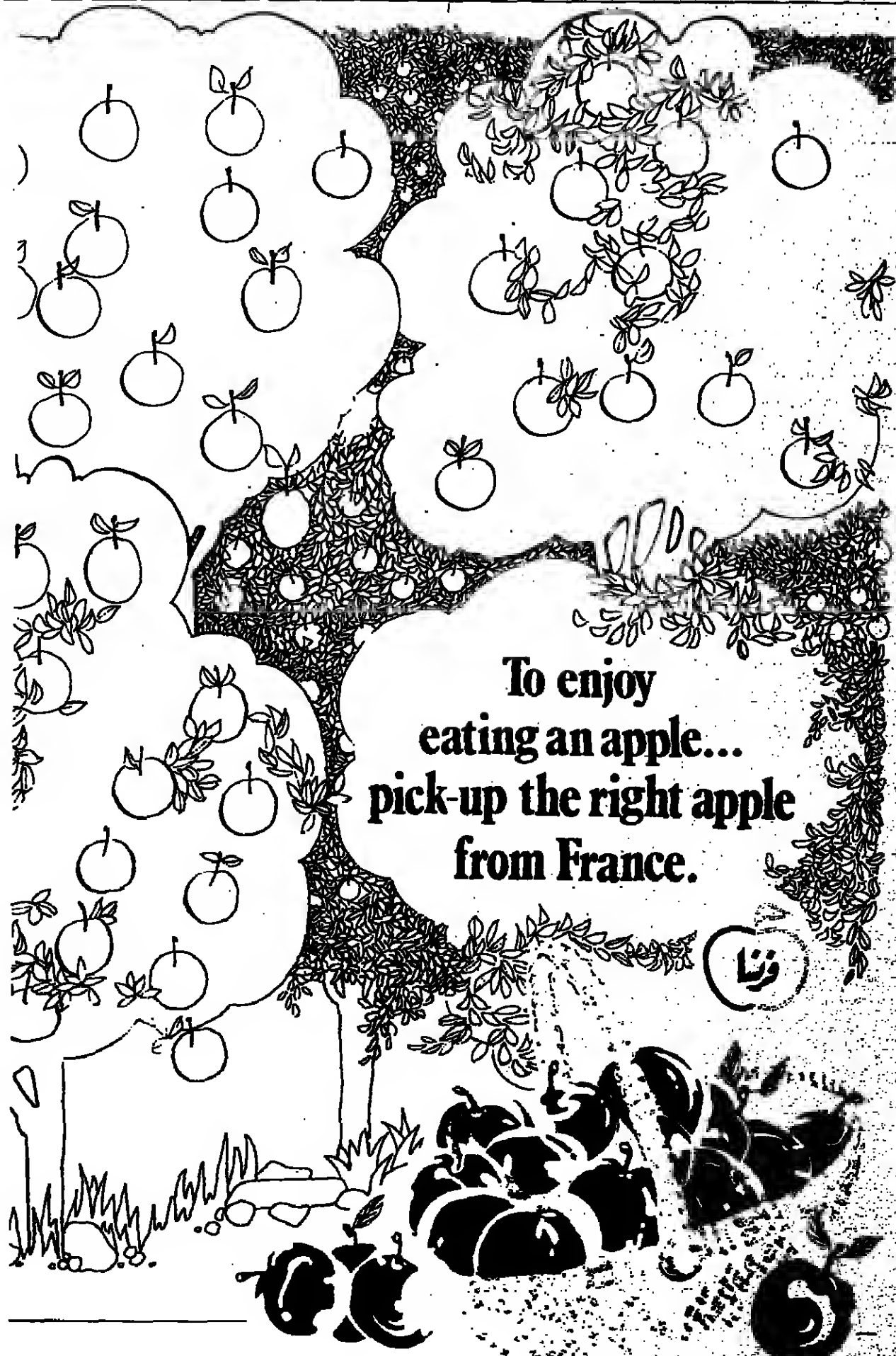
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هكزا من النحل



Swiss minister offers Kingdom all assistance

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, Dec. 18 — Swiss Minister of Economic Affairs Fritz Honegger has said that Swiss companies are well-prepared to contribute to the development of the Kingdom. He singles out industry, contracting, engineering, consultancy services, public health and railways as areas where expansion of activity is likely. He told Arab News Monday, at the end of his visit here for meetings of the Saudi-Swiss Joint Commission that both sides explored possible Swiss activity in maintenance, one of the "main lines of the new five-year development plan."

ides discuss bor imports

JEDDAH, Dec. 18 (SPA) — Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Muhammad Al-Azmet Monday with Dr. Yasser, director of the coordination committee for the promotion of overseas exports. They discussed the Kingdom's manpower needs.

well placed to establish joint ventures in Saudi Arabia. "You have to take into consideration that the first meeting of the Saudi-Swiss Joint Commission was held only three years ago," he added.

Already 15 joint ventures have been set up. One was dedicated by him in Riyadh this week and Dr. Ghazi Algosabi, minister of industry and electricity. It is a factory for the production of plastic. A number of Swiss companies are preparing plans for joint ventures, he said.

On overall Swiss help and the Saudi Arabian government's development programs, he said "we fully understand this policy and are prepared to assist in carrying them out."

Asked if he had requested assurances on security of oil supplies from the Kingdom, Honegger said no. The supply of oil and oil products to Switzerland was the responsibility of private firms.

"But I understand that some of them would be interested in buying crude from this country," he added.

Switzerland imports four per cent of its crude from Saudi Arabia, although about 70 per cent of the country's oil-based energy requirements are covered by imports from European refineries. A fair proportion is bought on the spot market.



AGREEMENT: Minister of Industry and Electricity Dr. Ghazi Algosabi and Swiss Minister of Economic Affairs Fritz Honegger sign a cooperation agreement at the end of meetings in Riyadh of the Saudi-Swiss Joint Commission.

In U.S., Britain

150 civil servants to study abroad

RIYADH, Dec. 18 (SPA) — It has been agreed to send 150 government employees for higher education in the United States and Britain.

The decision was taken at a meeting Sunday under Sheikh Hassan ibn Abdullah Al-Sheikh, the minister of higher education, rector of universities and chairman of the Higher Committee in charge of sending government employees abroad for education.

Abdullah Al-Hasin, general director of the committee and of university affairs in the Ministry of Higher Education, said afterward that a large number of applications have been received for education abroad from various government departments. The committee will meet once a month to discuss the applications.

Rector of King Abdul Aziz University Dr. Abdullah Nasif meanwhile opened here Monday a seminar on student affairs departments in the universities of the Kingdom.

He said the meetings would evaluate the Saudi Arabian student and his problems, and how to solve them according to the teachings of Islam.

The dean of the Students' Affairs Department of King Abdul Aziz University, Dr. Ahmad Bahifzallah, said the department was working according to the rules of education and work in the Prophet's teachings.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dr. Mahmud Safar emphasized the importance of the seminar in promoting cooperation between students of different universities.

The seminar is attended by representatives from the universities of the Kingdom and delegates from the Ministries of Higher Education, Information, Finance and National Economy and Planning.

Delegates from the Saudi Arabian National Center for Science and Technology, the World Assembly of Muslim Youth, the General Presidency of Youth Welfare and the General Presidency of Girls' Education took part in the seminar.

Meanwhile, King Faisal University of Dammam announced Tuesday that registration for the second seminar for all faculties will start Feb. 24.

Registration will be open for one day for the Faculties of Medicine and Medical Science in Dammam, and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Resources in Hasa.

In the Faculties of Agriculture and Foods in Hasa and Architecture and Planning in Dammam, it will continue for two days.

The Students and Educational Affairs Department has opened two new branches.

From Saturday

Riyadh bus routes expanded

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, Dec. 18 — The Saudi Public Transport Company (SAPTCO) will operate a new route from Saturday to cover larger areas north of the capital. The present Route Three will be extended to cover Ghabira area to the south.

An official in SAPTCO said Tuesday that the new route will begin from where Route one starts at the airport, proceeding southwest towards Sulaimaniyah and passing through Prince Sultan Road (King Faisal Road).

Taking the Nabigha Al-Jaadi road and Muhammad ibn Othaimin road, it will head south to the end of Umm Al-Hamam road, where it takes Islam Road southeast. From there, it will turn to Nasseriah Road (Asmeh Road) going south until it comes to King Faisal Hospital Road.

From there, buses will once again turn towards the Nasseriah Road and pass through Mazar Road, King Faisal Square and Prince Fahd Road until they come to the intersection of King Saud Road, Imam Abdul Aziz ibn Muhammad Road and Muhammad ibn Faisal ibn Turki Road. They then go southeast on King Saud Road until they reach Wasm Road, where they turn northeast, then east, passing the Passports Office.

Coming on to Dahab Road, the route moves south and goes to Semiramis Square, then westward on King Saud Road, passing the Post Office. From there, it heads toward Wazir Road, the Water Tower, Asha road and then Mansouriah Road (King Abdul Aziz Road) where it terminates.

The bus will take the same route going back, except that it will run on Batha Road instead of Wazir Road. Buses will stop at the specified stands only. In order to identify the new route, a yellow-colored inverted pyramid will be placed as a distinguishing mark.

The words "Airport" and "Al-Wazir/Al-Batha" will be written on it in Arabic and English.

Route Three will start from the beginning of Sittin Road, reach its intersection with University Road near Semiramis Square, it will go on to King Saud Road, passing the Post Office. Going south, it will take Wazir Road to reach the Water Tower, Khazzan Road and Shumaisi Road (Old and New). Passing the municipality, the bus will move south on Wazir Road to reach Ghabira Road. Turning south and then east, it will come to the road parallel to Ghabira Road to terminate near the mosque.

The same route will be taken going back, except buses will run on Wazir rather than Batha Road. Route three can be distinguished by its sign of a pink-color semi circle, with the words "University/Sittin" and "Al-Ghabira" written on it.

Route Three will operate from 5 a.m. to 11.30 p.m., with services starting every 15 minutes.

Route Eight will operate from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, with the services starting every 20 minutes.

ourriah Road (King Abdul Aziz Road) where it terminates.

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The SAPTCO routes have a uniform fare of SR1, but the passenger will have to pay an additional SR1 for changing from one route to another.

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The SAPTCO routes have a uniform fare of SR1, but the passenger will have to pay an additional SR1 for changing from one route to another.

Salman to attend opening of new ministry building

JEDDAH, Dec. 18 — Governor of Riyadh Prince Salman will attend Saturday a ceremony for the opening of the new headquarters of the Ministry of Industry and Electricity near the rail road station in Riyadh. The ceremony was postponed from earlier this month.

Invitations have been sent to senior officials. Prince Salman and Dr. Ghazi Algosabi, minister of industry and electricity, will speak, according to Al-Jazirah.

2-1 in Riyadh

Lebanese defeat Hilal

RIYADH, Dec. 18 (SPA) — Ansar of Lebanon defeated Hilal of Riyadh 2-1 in a football match here Monday. Ansar is visiting Saudi Arabia, at the invitation of Itihad of Jeddah.

The two teams were 1-1 at the end of the first half. Hilal's Najib Imam scored first in the 16th minute. In the 24th minute, Jamal Al-Khatib of Ansar scored the equalizer.

But in the 33rd minute of the second half, Ansar scored again. Yusuf Al-Goul getting it in.

Ansar met Itihad Thursday and the match ended in a 1-1 draw. The Lebanese goal came in the 25 minute of the first half, and Itihad scored in the 33rd minute of the second. The play was frequently rough.

In a basketball tournament in Riyadh, meanwhile Shebab defeated Khaliji 73-50. Ahli won against Shati, 80-55, in Jeddah. Hilal topped Ansar 76-69 in Medina, and Ohod triumphed over Safa, 105-46.

Aide arrives on Libya trip

RIYADH, Dec. 18 (SPA) — Deputy Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Dr. Saleh Malek arrived in Tripoli Monday on a three-day visit to Libya. He will hold talks with Libyan officials of municipal affairs on cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Libya in developing culture and municipal affairs.

WEATHER

Low air pressure will prevail in the northern region, with cold air. Temperatures will drop and low cloud will cover the area with possible scattered thunderstorms.

This weather will affect the western and central regions, and the western and south-western highlands.

Winds will be south-westerly and active. They will cause sand haze and limit horizontal vision.

Conditions in the Red Sea will be rough to medium and moderate to light in the Gulf.

Tuesday's temperatures (maximum, minimum in centigrade)

Mecca	28	17	Jizan	30	24
Jeddah	29	23	Wajh	24	16
Riyadh	16	09	Turaif	16	05
Dhahran	19	10	Arar	17	05
Medina	26	15	Sulayyil	21	07
Taif	24	11	Abha	19	10

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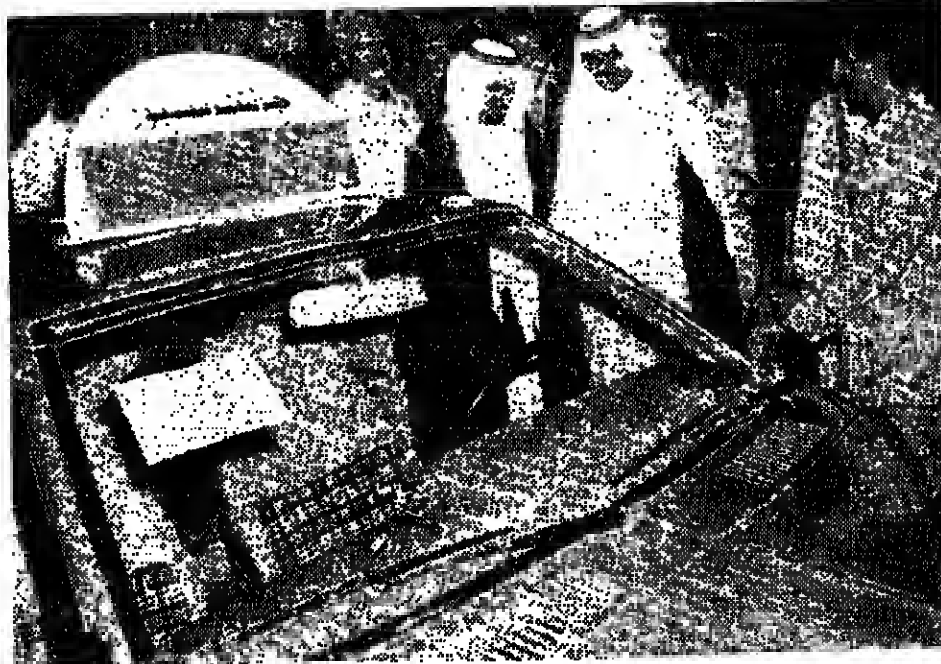
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NEOPLAN SUITE: Neoplan German Two-Deck Buses besides Neoplan buses which have proved capable of transporting hundreds of thousands of pilgrims this year.

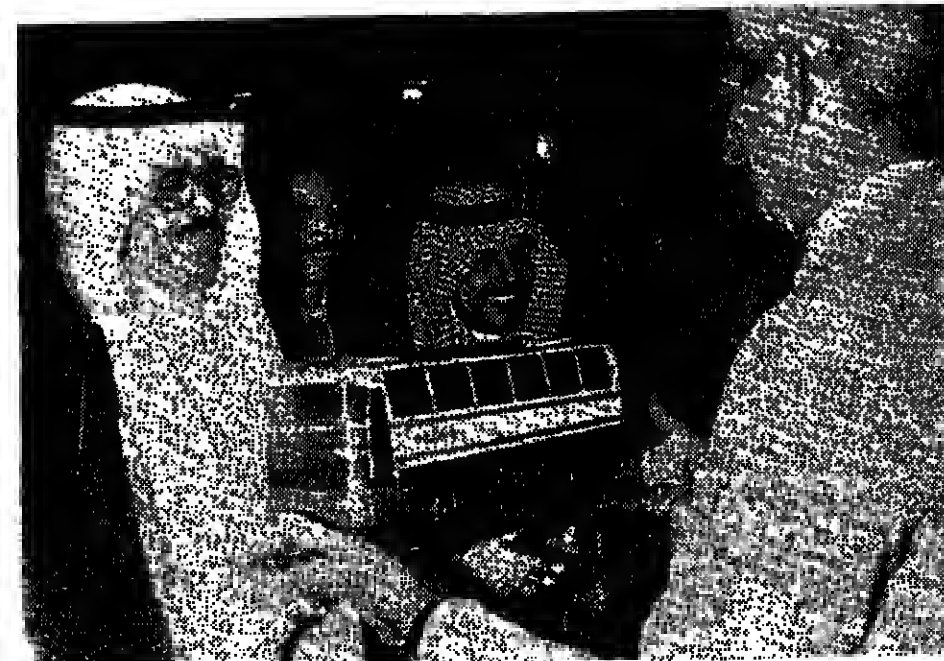
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Dr. Hasan Omer Balkhi, Deputy Chairman, Jeddah Municipality, visiting Chrysler's suite. Beside him in the picture are Sheikh Saleh Alesayi and Mr. Khaled Alesayi.



Dr. Hasan Omer Balkhi, Deputy Chairman, Jeddah Municipality, inspecting Galant vehicles at Mitsubishi Suite.



Dr. Hasan Omer Balkhi, at Neoplan Suite, receiving a miniature specimen of Neoplan German Two-Deck Bus. Beside him in the picture is Mr. Aidroos Alesayi.

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Israeli police use tear gas to disperse W.Bank march

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18 (AP) — Israeli troops used tear gas to break up a procession of about 1,000 Palestinians mourning a Palestinian commando assassinated in Cyprus, the state radio reported.

Military officials confirmed that the demonstrators from Halhoul, 2 kms south of Jerusalem, set out in a procession for Beit Omar, the nearby village where commando Ibrahim Bargieth was born.

According to Israeli news reports, Bargieth was allegedly the Palestine Liberation Organization official in charge of commando attacks in the West Bank. An assassin shot him and a second

PLO official at point-blank range Saturday outside an apartment building in Nicosia.

Israeli radio reported that as the procession moved down the road, people in it stoned passing Israeli cars. Israeli troops ordered the demonstrators to disperse, and then enforced their order with a blast of tear gas.

Arab newspapers in the West Bank carried black-framed condolence messages for Bargieth, codenamed Abu Safwat.

Despite the show of force against the demonstrators, Israel's military government in the West Bank is apparently taking a liberal attitude toward previously forbidden anti-Israeli activity by West

Bank mayors.

The government did nothing to prevent two meetings by the mayors Monday, one in Ramallah and one in Nablus, at which the Palestinian leaders reaffirmed their boycott of Israeli-Egyptian talks on West Bank autonomy and their opposition to Israeli settlements. Troops blocked a third meeting at Hebron.

The above-ground resistance began in early November, to protest an expulsion order against Nablus Mayor Bassam Shakaa. After Israel canceled the order and released Shakaa two weeks ago, the military reportedly decided to clamp down on the continuing demonstrations. But the mayors continued to meet.

"We plan more demonstrations, more resistance," Ramallah Mayor Kerim Khalaf said in a telephone interview. "I can't tell you over the phone because the lines are tapped."

40 Iran troops said heading to South Lebanon

BEIRUT, Dec. 18 (AP) — Forty Iranian volunteers landed in Syria Tuesday and were to proceed to southern Lebanon to fight alongside Palestinian commandos against Israel, a Lebanese parliamentarian said.

"Those are volunteer scouts whose task will be to pave the way for the coming of thousands of Iranian fighters to southern Lebanon," said the parliament deputy, who refused to be identified.

About 50 Iranians have already been absorbed by Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization's commando units in the southern Lebanese regions, said the deputy, himself a Shiite Muslim who professes loyalty to Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

PLO officials here disclaimed any knowledge about the arrival of the Iranians in Damascus.



Suleyman Demirel

Demirel vows to crack down on extremists

ANKARA, Dec. 18 (R) — Turkish Premier Suleyman Demirel has pledged to crack down on political extremists who have killed about 1,800 people in gun or bomb attacks this year, the state radio reported.

Demirel, who came to power just over a month ago, called on provincial governors, police chiefs and senior education officials to unite against extremist violence for "the salvation of our country."

Addressing a meeting of provincial officials in Ankara Monday, Demirel said: "I want peace and order in the streets, schools, offices and factories of all provinces... This fire must be put out. We are aiming for the salvation of our country from this big scourge..."

"We shall lead an unforgiving struggle against those who want to destroy the Turkish state."

Street killings by left or right-wing extremists have evolved into a vicious circle in Turkey. Such deaths are generally followed quickly by the retaliatory killing of the same number of people from the other side.

Afghanistan, Pakistan plan talks on rift

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 18 (Agencies) — Pakistan's foreign affairs chief is to visit Kabul for talks with the Afghanistan government to try and settle differences between the two countries.

Shahi, foreign affairs adviser to President Zia Ul-Haq will visit Afghanistan next weekend at the invitation of Foreign Minister Shah Wali, a government statement said Monday night.

No details were given. The visit was originally planned several months ago but it was put off after President Nur Muhammad Taraki was toppled by his Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin on Sept. 14.

The most outstanding issue between the two neighbors is the nearly 400,000 Afghan refugees who have fled to Pakistan to escape the fighting between government forces and anti-government rebels.

Afghanistan has refused to acknowledge the refugees and has branded them counter-revolutionaries and criminals. It has accused Pakistan of backing the rebels who are trying to topple the leftwing Soviet-backed regime in Kabul. Pakistan denies the charge.

Pakistan has accused Afghanistan of incursions across the frontier by fighter-bombers, helicopters and occasionally troops.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Press International news agency said Tuesday that Afghan rebels killed about 700 soldiers, including three Soviet experts with the Afghan army, in heavy fighting Dec. 6-16 in Afghanistan's Acheer Agan district of Nangarhar province.

The agency was quoting a press release by the Hizbe Islami group fighting against government forces.

Gap on autonomy wide--Ghali

CAIRO, Dec. 18 (R) — Egypt's deputy negotiator to the Palestinian autonomy talks has said Egypt and Israel were far from agreement and gave no indication of a possible breakthrough at the next meeting in Cairo on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali, answering

reporters' questions on the talks said Monday: "There are still wide gaps, we have to carry on talking."

He said Egyptian and Israeli concepts of autonomy for the 1.2 million Palestinians on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remained far apart.

Egypt wanted the transfer to the Palestinians of all powers now

exercised by the Israeli military government while Israel was only prepared to give them a say in the running of day-to-day affairs.

Western diplomatic sources said they expected little movement on the autonomy talks before President Anwar Sadat meets Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Aswan next month.

Panama parties hit Shah's presence

PANAMA CITY, Dec. 18 (AP) — Several political parties and radio commentators Monday criticized the government for allowing the deposed Shah to take refuge on a Panamanian Island. The Liberal Youth Party said, "The Shah's millions will influence Panama's politics... we don't want the Shah here. His presence is repulsive to the Panamanian people."

Grenade explosion kills 2 in Iran

TABRIZ, Dec. 18 (AP) — Two persons were killed and 13 seriously injured when a grenade exploded accidentally during military training for young people ordered in a nationwide program by Ayatollah Khomeini, the Tehran daily *Ettelaat* said Monday. The paper did not say when the explosion, which took place during a military training session, occurred.

Turkish office in London bombed

LONDON, Dec. 18 (R) — A bomb exploded Monday night at the office of the Turkish Airlines in central London, and a clandestine Armenian organization claimed responsibility. There were no immediate reports of injury or extent of damage. An anonymous caller telephoned Reuters to say the Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia made the attack. The organization has claimed responsibility for similar attacks against Turkish airlines offices in Paris and Rome in the past few weeks.

Mengistu to 'crush reactionaries'

NAIROBI, Dec. 18 (R) — Ethiopian military ruler Lt. Col. Mengistu HaileMariam has said reactionary forces in Ethiopia must be crushed before a workers party is formed, Addis Ababa radio reported. The radio, monitored in Nairobi, quoted him as saying in a speech Monday night that the party would be established eventually but could not be formed at present.

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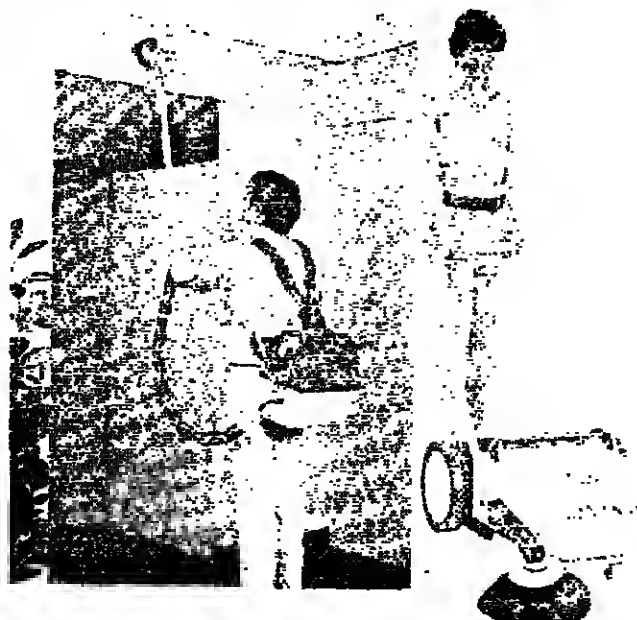
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Against Somoza backers Trials get underway in Managua

MANAGUA, Dec. 18 (AP) — A new Nicaraguan government opened the first nine of an estimated 7,500 trials against soldiers, aides and employees of ousted President Anastasio Somoza.

Many of them fled the country and will be tried in absentia. Somoza himself, in exile in Paraguay, not be. Nicaragua's five-member ruling junta says it hopes extradite him, although the two countries have no extradition treaty.

More than half the accused are former members of Somoza's national guard, which was defeated last July in a revolution led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Among the defendants are an estimated 600 Guardsmen and other Somoza sympathizers said to be under the protection of foreign embassies in which they took refuge in hopes of political asylum.

Two dozen trials had been scheduled to open Monday but only eight got under way. A ninth was to be opened Tuesday. In one, an alleged member of a paramilitary hit squad, Alberto Prado Mena, was accused of murder. Prosecutor Marisol Morales asked a 25-year prison term for Prado, whose trial, like all others, is to take no longer than 25 days.

The maximum sentence any of the accused face is 30 years. The country has no death penalty. All

prisoners have the right to appeal.

The press and international observers have been promised access to trial transcripts, although the press and bystanders were barred from Monday's opening session. Only a few relatives of the accused were admitted.

Charges against those facing trial in person, who are being kept in jails throughout the country, include murder, arson, robbery and assault. No breakdown of the charges has been made public.

A special prosecutor, Nora Astorga, was directed by the junta to set up nine tribunals and three appeals courts to hear the cases.

The former operations chief of Nicaragua's air force was also to appear before a tribunal Tuesday to answer charges that he was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Nicaraguans killed in government bombings of the cities of Masaya and Esteli.

Prosecutors asked that he be given the maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. They requested penalties of from 13 to 25 years in prison for the other eight.

The nine special tribunals are expected to take more than six months, and as long as two years by some estimates, to hear the cases.

arter won't accept delay Senate voting on SALT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP) — President Jimmy Carter's spokesman has ruled out saying a vote on the strategic arms limitation treaty until after presidential election next year.

White House press secretary J. Patrick Gorman said "it is not in the president's interest to have an election held off until after election

debate on the U.S. Soviet treaty is scheduled to begin shortly or the Senate returns from its Christmas vacation in January. Other opponents nor treaty supporters have claimed they have sufficient votes to win the fight.

Two-thirds of the senators voting must approve the treaty before it can be ratified.

Meanwhile, NATO offered Monday to pull out 13,000 U.S. troops from West Germany in exchange for the withdrawal of three Soviet army divisions, totaling 30,000 men, from Eastern Europe.

If accepted, the plan will represent the first agreed pullback by East-West forces since World War II. It will be the starting point of a manpower and arms reduction program which both sides have sought in six years of tough negotiations.

The initiative was described by Western diplomats as a determined attempt to break the deadlock in force-reduction talks in Vienna and to get an interim agreement signed soon between NATO and the Communist Warsaw Pact.

NATO officials said they hoped for a quick response because the proposal resembled a withdrawal plan proposed by the seven-nation Warsaw Pact 18 months ago.



WHAT GOES UP... Must come down, as did this American competitor in a recent Western rodeo in the United States. The intrepid gentleman vowed to tame a wild, bucking bull, but all he got for his pains was... pains. All over.

World body bans use of torture

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 18 (R) — The world's law enforcement agencies are forbidden to use torture, ignore a prisoner's illness, or practice corruption, under a code of conduct the U.N. General Assembly has approved without a vote.

The assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee had accepted the code as an addition to a draft resolution adopted Dec. 3.

The resolution also said, that a law enforcement agency "like all agencies of the criminal justice system... should be representative of and responsive and accountable to the community as a whole."

According to the code: — Law enforcement officials shall at all times fulfill the duty imposed upon them by law, by serving the community and by protecting all persons against illegal acts, consistent with the high degree of responsibility required by their profession.

— In performance of their duty, law enforcement officials shall respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons.

— Law enforcement officials may use force only when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty.

— Matters of a confidential nature in the possession of law enforcement officials shall be kept confidential, unless the performance of duty or the needs of justice strictly require otherwise.

— No law enforcement official may inflict, instigate or tolerate

any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, nor invoke superior orders or exceptional circumstances such as a state of war or a threat of war, a threat to national security, internal political stability, or any other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

— Law enforcement officials shall ensure the full protection of the health of persons in their custody and, in particular, take immediate action to secure medical attention whenever required.

Death penalty sought for Park's assassin

SEOUL, Dec. 18 (AP) — The prosecution demanded the death penalty Tuesday for President Park Chung-hee's admitted assassin and six others accused of murder with intent for rebellion.

The prosecution also demanded the maximum five-year jail sentence for another defendant accused of destroying evidence by burying guns used in the assassination of Park and five of his bodyguards.

The five-member panel hearing the testimony at a court martial has not yet indicated when it will issue a verdict.

Former Korean CIA chief Kim Jae-kyu admitted that he plotted for years to kill Park to end his one-man rule and restore democracy.

Last Saturday, Kim appealed to the judge in behalf of former presidential secretary Kim Kae-won and the six KCIA agents standing trial, saying they had no choice but to obey his orders.

Kim said the South Korean people should consider him "a hero or a fighter" for his part to launch democracy. "I want all the people to do the rest of the work now and please prevent any confusion" or a return to the past, he said.

Park was shot across a dinner table at a KCIA "safehouse."

Kim testified he wanted to launch a revolution for democracy but denied he wanted to be president, as the original government report on the assassination claimed.

Superior to U.S. vessels

Soviets deploy new type of atomic sub

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP) — U.S. intelligence sources said Tuesday the Soviet Union has started deploying a new nuclear-powered attack submarine that is faster and can dive deeper than the most advanced American subs.

The submarine may pose a major problem for the U.S. Navy in the future if it is built in large numbers, analysts said. Attack submarines are used to fight other submarines and to hunt and sink naval and merchant surface ships.

U.S. intelligence has been aware for some time that the Russians were testing the new

"Alfa-Class" submarine, but its first operational deployment into the North Atlantic was detected only recently.

There were indications that the sub accompanied a Soviet missile-firing submarine from the northern part of the Soviet Union, using the noise of the Alfa's machinery to throw off U.S. acoustic devices seeking to track the missile submarine to its patrol area.

The new sub has since headed back toward its home base in the Arctic region of the Soviet Union, said the sources who asked not to be named.

Very little has been disclosed publicly by defense officials in congressional testimony about the submarine.

Admiral Hyman Rickover, the navy's nuclear propulsion expert, told Congress in late October that the Russians have a "new, deep-running, very fast nuclear attack submarine." He did not elaborate.

A navy source estimated the sub can travel submerged at speeds over 40 knots. That would be faster than the U.S. Los Angeles-Class submarines, which are believed to generate speeds over 30 knots.

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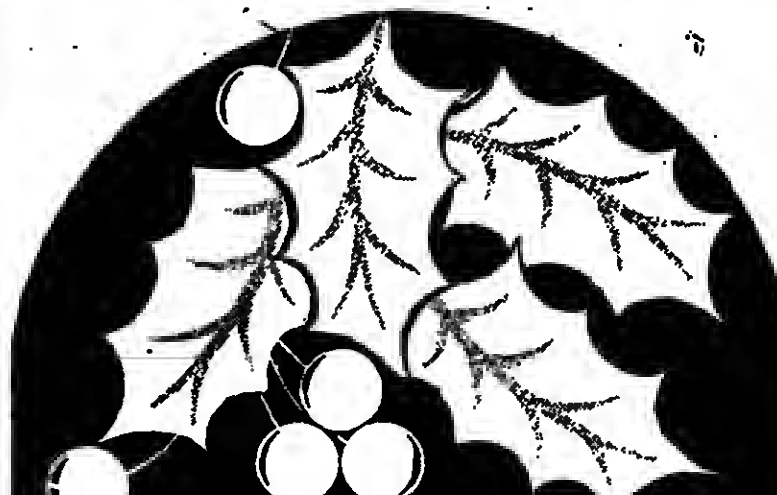
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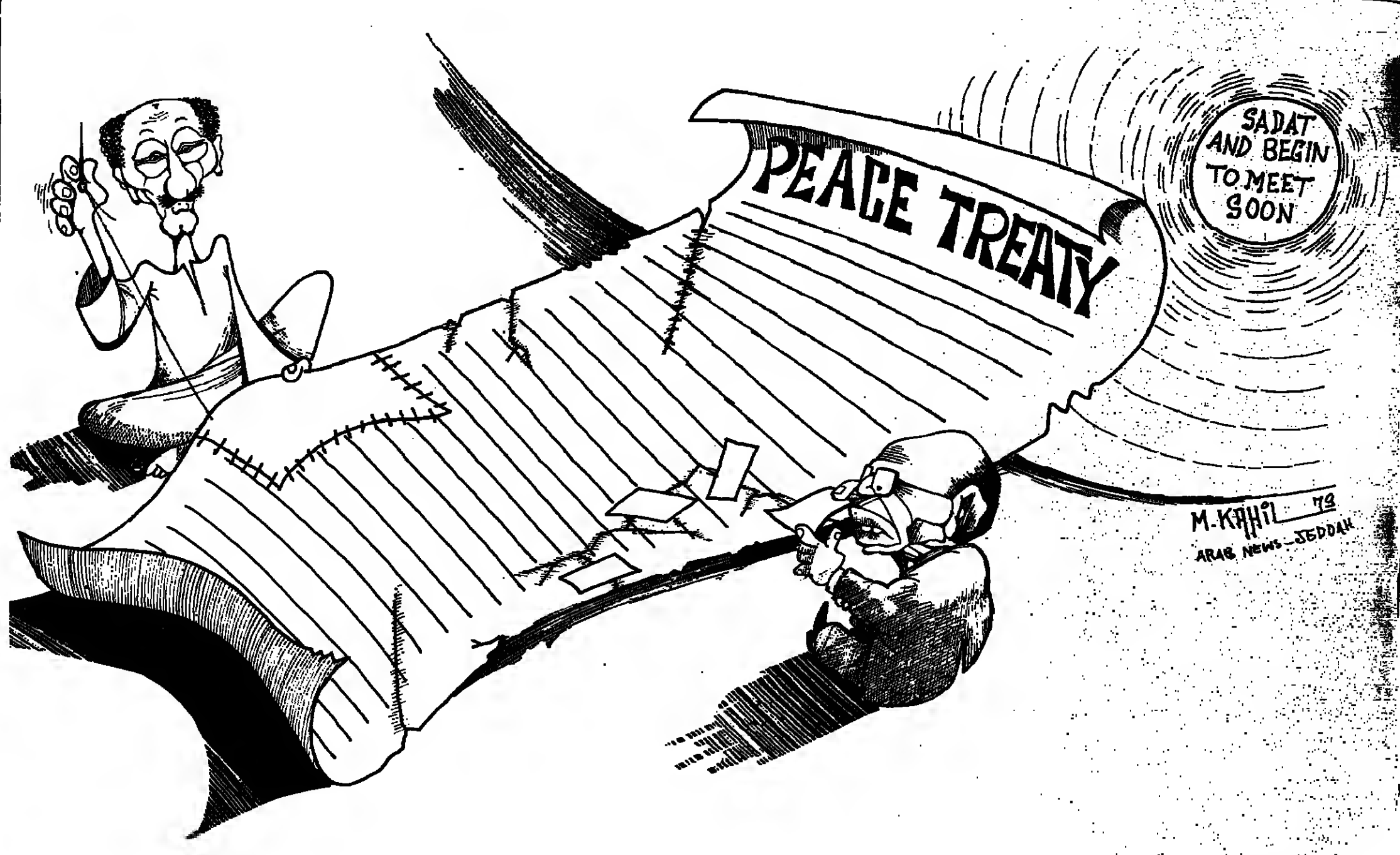
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An ambitious but amiable man rises to Spain's heights

By Kevin Dunn

MADRID —

On a sunny December morning four years ago a young politician named Adolfo Suarez, dressed in the blue shirt of the Falangists, knelt to swear allegiance to Spain's single-state party.

The occasion was the swearing-in of the country's first government following the death of dictator Francisco Franco the month before.

Coming among a batch of new ministerial appointments, the naming of Suarez as head of Franco's party, the National Movement, passed largely unnoticed.

But today the handsome career politician is firmly established as prime minister of a rejuvenated and democratic Spain, and his spell as head of the "Movimiento" is an episode he perhaps would rather forget.

If only to remind him and Spain of his past, a first best-selling biography of the young premier carries a photograph of his swearing-in on its cover.

Superimposed over Suarez's left shoulder is an impassive Franco.

The book's cover and its title *Adolfo Suarez: Story of an Ambition* give immediate notice that it is far from an official biography.

But although its publication was awaited with apprehension by the prime minister's entourage, journalist Gregorio Moran has not hit Suarez very hard.

The portrait which emerges is of a charming but fiercely ambitious young man charting his way to power through the labyrinths of the Franco regime with a mixture of luck and good judgment.

According to the author, Suarez's overriding characteristics as a young man were "amiability, niceness and enthusiastic servility." But he is also credited with "a political sense of smell for knowing which way the wind is going to blow."

Suarez was born into a middle-class provincial family in 1932.

Barely four years old when the 1936-39 civil war erupted, Suarez was unscarred by its divisions. He belonged to neither the winning nor losing camp.

His father, far from being a Francoist, was well known for supporting a Republican deputy and narrowly escaped arrest by the Nationalists.

Suarez's home province of Avila marked him as Castilian, centrist and Roman Catholic.

Avila, Moran relates, was a town which in 1950 summarily fined its women if they stepped into the street without wearing stockings.

Cloistered within Avila's medieval walls, Suarez grew up away from the bustle of Madrid. But when he and other young aspiring politicians moved here they injected new blood into a moribund establishment.

In Madrid Suarez's political "nose" led him to success.

Moran points out that Suarez arrived here at the age of 26 with none of the traditional attributes of

success in Francoist Spain.

He had no glorious civil war past, no brilliant professional career, no money, no family connections.

The young administrator, with a modest law degree as his only qualification, was therefore obliged to seek the protection of political "god-fathers" and develop his natural flair for public relations.

"(He) did not excel at anything, except for being likeable and his gift for making friends," Moran writes, attributing 60 per cent of Suarez's success to his personal charm.

But Moran does not deny the future premier's astuteness. Seeking a civil governorship, Suarez rented a holiday flat next door to the then interior minister and carefully cultivated his friendship.

The move paid off. In June 1968, at the age of 37, Suarez became Spain's youngest civil governor when he was appointed to head the civil authority in the province of Segovia.

Later, as head of Spanish television for four years, he was able to promote his own career and court the favors of ministers by clever use of the small but image-building screen.

But perhaps Suarez's shrewdest move was to align himself with the then Prince Juan Carlos whom Franco appointed in 1969 to succeed him.

Moran says Suarez "treated Juan Carlos as king long before he became one. The prince was number one on his list of people to be paid tribute, above the

men of the moment."

After Franco's death on Nov. 20, 1975 it was the prince's former tutor, Torcuato Fernandez Miranda, who adopted Suarez and ensured his appointment, first as minister of the national movement and, in July 1976, as premier.

Through intricate political maneuvering, the man who was "an average boy, neither ugly nor good-looking, clever or stupid, tall or small," had got to the top.

Suarez's appointment was greeted by howls of derision, dismay and disappointment. But he is still there.

"Drawing on former friendships, patient negotiating and, as ever personal charm, Suarez was able to reform the Francoist dictatorship from within and transform it into a democracy."

To do so, he relied heavily on former contacts with the pillars of the "ancient regime" — the Catholic church, the "Movimiento" and the military class — and yet was able to appear comparatively "clean" to a sceptical democratic opposition.

According to Moran, the transition needed a man like Suarez — "malleable, disciplined, with a fabulous capacity for hiding his feelings... brave and above all, excellent at public relations."

Apart from a love of power, Moran writes that Suarez has only one passion — playing cards. Spain, in its biggest gamble of the century, seems to have found the right man. — (R)

THE SHAH'S EXIT

Despite the still overcharged rhetoric from Iran, it is clear that the Shah's move to Panama has taken much of the heat out of the Iranian-American crisis. This much could be seen from Iran's foreign minister's reaction, in which he described the move as a "positive step" and expected that some of the hostages at least would be released by Christmas.

With the war drums beating distinctly less insistently now, the two nations have a chance to consider their common interest in phasing out their confrontation. This was probably the longest of its kind in history, and to keep it brewing much further would entail merely raising the cost of the inevitable ultimate settlement.

On the Iranian side, the leadership could point out to some definite gains, so that the turn to a more pacific path would be seen, especially by Ayatollah Khomeini's followers, as far from an ignoble climb-down. America have had to revise its attitude on the question of allowing the Shah to settle there. In addition, the limits of America's power were thoroughly exposed.

On the other hand, the internal situation in Iran is coming to a head. And if the conflict between the two leading Islamic leaders, Ayatollah Khomeini and Shariat Madani, has not yet reached the point of explosion, it is still important that the external crisis, a source of added uncertainty, is ended so that full attention can be paid to the problem of political reconstruction.

On the American side, the Washington Administration could claim that the Shah's departure represents the solution it has always been ready to settle for, provided there is reciprocity on the Iranian side. The ultimate Iranian demand of handing the Shah over has been consistently and successfully rejected.

Further, the administration could claim credit from the very restraint it showed in handling the crisis. The lesson of the limits to what a superpower can do have apparently been learned. The international situation no longer allows a nation, however strong and capable, to take the law into its own hand, no matter how just it might deem its cause to have been.

The word for the final termination of the crisis, the word which can set the hostages free, has to come from Ayatollah Khomeini himself. Let us hope it will not be long in coming, so that the world can breathe freely once more...

The French domestic political scene does an about-face

By PAUL WEBSTER

PARIS —

In a phrase which sums up the anxiety of both left- and right-wing opinion over the past few weeks, the pro-government magazine *Le Point* described the present political situation in France as "the most important crisis for the French system in 20 years."

As the crisis develops, the men who should be most affected are finding their authority increased. President Giscard and Prime Minister Raymond Barre are receiving sufficient public support for them to treat a rebellious parliament with disdain and the left-wing opposition with contempt.

In an extraordinary reversal of public opinion, Barre has bounced back from being the most unpopular Premier of the Fifth Republic to one of the best supported. Giscard, who seemed threatened with defeat in the 1981 presidential elections, is now shown by opinion polls as an easy winner.

Both men seemed on the verge of public humiliation two months ago. Barre's budget had been stopped by a Gaullist revolt in Parliament, and his three-year austerity program had led to the worst

government deficit and the worst unemployment in French history. The Elysee was making no secret that a replacement was being sought.

President Giscard, meanwhile, was being pressed over a \$200,000 gift of diamonds from ex-Empress Bokassa, a man whom France protected during a period of repression and massacre in the Central African Empire. Evasive and embarrassed, the President was entangled in an atmosphere of scandal overhanging his whole Administration, marked by the suicide in October of Labor Minister Robert Boulin.

Two months later, the tensions are superficially the same. Barre is confronted by a Parliament in which more than three-quarters of the National Assembly is opposed to his politics. The Gaullist Party, the biggest movement in the moribund coalition, is demanding both his resignation and a change of President.

Giscard has been accused of receiving even more diamonds from ex-Empress Bokassa and his Cabinet is still openly divided. Yet both wield greater authority than at any time since the presidential elections in 1974.

Recognizing that Barre is again in favor, the president has confirmed him in office for at least

another six months, making it likely that he will be in power at least until the presidential elections.

Barre has used this new mandate to check the Gaullist revolt, turning to a constitutional clause which allows the executive to overrule Parliament.

Article 49, under which laws are passed automatically unless a censure motion is carried, is being "used like a machine-gun," according to the Gaullists, who can stop legislation only by bringing down the government. In a situation unprecedented in the Fifth Republic, the article is being employed, for legislation both great and small, resulting in de facto rule by decree.

Giscard has employed de Gaulle's technique of aloofness to restore his opinion poll rating, which has risen to one of the highest points of his mandate. Surveys show him an easy winner against all his potential presidential rivals.

French fear of instability has helped Giscard and Barre. So has the failure of their opponents to exploit the crisis.

Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac has been shown to be indecisive, a man with a bark worse than his bite. The Socialists are paralyzed by an argument between left-wingers and social democrats that has

destroyed the authority of Francois Mitterrand, the party leader.

Socialist-Communist rivalry has developed from the division of the March 1978 general election to a point where they introduced rival censure motions in Parliament rather than unite. Georges Marchais, the Communist secretary-general, has led a return to hard-line Stalinism in which the main aim is to defeat a Socialist presidential candidate.

Opponents of Barre and Giscard cling to straw, believing that the Gaullists will become fed up with being pushed around and will vote a censure motion in spring, even at the risk of a general election.

On the left, there is the hope that Mitterrand, the most unpopular of the three potential Socialist presidential candidates, will stand down in favor of his main rival, Michel Rocard, who has strong support even on the Right.

There is talk of a Socialist-Gaullist alliance, fulfillment of de Gaulle's dream, but it is the realist who look like they will have the last say.

The most devastating analysis has come from one of the dominant figures of the left, the Socialist trade union leader Edmond Maire. He believes Giscard is already safe for another seven years in office. — (OFNS)

saudi press review

Newspapers Tuesday mostly led with a report on the Council of Ministers' meeting held Monday night chaired by Crown Prince Fahd, who declared that investigations with the captured renegades would be completed very soon and that the Holy Haram incident would "neither obstruct the Kingdom's development nor change anything in our policy of supporting the Arab rights." Prince Fahd also stressed that Islam was not an obstacle in the way of civilization. In a lead story, *Okaz* said the Caracas OPEC conference was expected to reach an accord on the oil prices.

In a front-page story, *Al-Jazirah* reported the closure of the PLO office in Benghazi, Libya and the expulsion of its representatives. The U.N. Security Council's discussion on the Lebanese situation and the visit of Prince Abdullah, the second deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, to the wounded soldiers at the armed forces hospital in Riyadh also figured prominently

on the front pages.

Newspapers generally highlighted the significance of the OPEC conference which began in Caracas Monday, and emphasized that the responsibility for the present deteriorating economic situation in the world lay more on the rich nations than on the OPEC countries.

Al-Jazirah said that the different problems now facing the world economy have started showing negative results on the lives of the peoples both the rich and the poor countries. Voicing its concern for the worsening economic situation, it held the rich nations directly responsible for creating a situation that compelled the oil-producing states to increase the oil prices.

The paper said the industrialized nations have failed to limit their oil imports and added that major oil companies were draining out oil and using unfair methods to dominate the world market. It urged the rich nations to "understand the dimensions of their individual and collective

responsibilities toward improving the world economic situation and extending cooperation to the OPEC countries in overcoming its fluctuations."

In an editorial, *Al-Riyadh* dealt with the "game of economy" which the rich and developing nations were now playing. Referring to the tactics being adopted by Washington and Moscow in the fields of finance, economy and war in the absence of a third party, it said "their game reached a finale in the Middle East where their adventure had become insecure for more than one reason."

The paper said there has been a total awakening in the Middle East, as a result of which the game was no more confined to the two "giants" but the Middle East also came in as a third giant. It added that the two major powers had long ignored the Middle East which has now asserted its total importance so much that domination over it has become extremely difficult. "The third party is now trying to lay down a new structure

for the dimensions of the dangerous game so that it was not subject to any surprises again, as it used to be previously," it said.

Al-Medina reminded the Arabs about the delicate situation in the Arab world and said "it necessitated the Arab governments and people to take effective measures for the realization of their aims." It said that the denunciation of the Camp David accords and the Israeli aggression on South Lebanon has become a long-drawn affair without being able to move anything or helping in the realization of the slightest ambitions of the Arabs.

The paper alerted the Arab states on their course of action before February, in order to prevent the "catastrophe" expected to befall in the form of the exchange of ambassadors between Israel and Egypt. It stressed the adoption of serious and quick measures in this behalf and reaffirmed that the Arab states did have the capability of doing so. *Okaz* highlighted the impor-

tance of a united information strategy among the Gulf states in the face of hostile campaigns against the region. "The positive role of the Gulf Arab states in supporting the Arab rights has made them the target of slanders by the malicious foreign information media," it said.

"The Gulf Information Ministers' conference, to be held in Riyadh next Saturday, gains a special importance in view of the surrounding circumstances which necessitate the unity of thought and coordination in information activities by the Gulf states," said the paper.

Dwelling on the Gulf's strategic position, *Al-Bilad* said "there is no scope for any individual action to be able to preserve peace and stability in the region. With this significant point in view, Saudi Arabia went a long way to show cooperation on the basis of a collective responsibility for the region's peace and stability," it added.



هكذا من العمل



Doc tells his six companions that someone has entered the house in their absence

It's off to work we go in Al Khobar

By GEOFF GARDNER

AL KHOBAR — The play is about good and evil, castles and otages, love and death, poison apples and heroic rescues, dwarfs and woodsmen, jealousy and power, handsome princes and beautiful maidens.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is the classic fairy tale, full of horror and romance. It is a story children love every time they hear

Once again, an audience of children and adults gave the story an enthusiastic reception at the British Air Corporation Variety Club's production at the Lido cinema here from Dec. 9 to 11.

In keeping with the English tradition of pantomime plays at Christmas, the BAC players

selected a nursery tale and embellished it with song and dance.

Rehearsals began in early November with a cast of 20. The aim of the production was to give the children an entertaining evening and a reminder of their heritage.

English pantomime encourages audience participation, and the players used this to sweep the half-child, half-adult audience along. The dwarfs entered from the back of the theater, players moved close to the audience by moving out on a ramp extension of the stage and the dwarfs threw "snowballs" into the audience at the finale.

A narrator was used to frame the story. Peter Fox adapted the old folk tale and the script was skillfully written. The scenery, by

Vaughan Radford, was particularly impressive, capturing the moods evoked by castles, caves and cottages.

Producer-director Elizabeth Gregson had to make some difficult decisions in her first experience in production and direction. Most noticeable was to have the songs mimed from Walt Disney's movie. Dubbing is the only alternative to long rehearsals and trained voices.

The children loved it. They hissed the evil queen's plans to kill her innocent stepdaughter, shouted encouragement to the dwarfs and cheered the prince's rescue of Snow White from the deadly spell of the poison apple. It almost seemed as if the children didn't know what would happen when Charles Tringham, the witch, offered Snow White the

apple. Cries of "poison, poison" filled the theater when Kathryn Palmer, as Snow White, wondered whether or not to eat the deadly fruit.

Perhaps there wasn't enough time for the audience to appreciate the bond between Snow White and the dwarfs or sufficient development of the attraction between Snow White and the prince but these things need not be questioned. They happen on stage because we wish them to happen.

The test of a production of such a familiar tale is whether it can still surprise, whether the suspension of disbelief can be sustained. Each child and each adult among the 900 or so who saw the show judged Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to be good theater. And, indeed it was.

The young art of Saudi fiction

By OMAR BAGABAS

The second of a series

JEDDAH — One of the most important literary figures in the 1930s, the early experimental stage of Saudi fiction, is Ahmad Rida Huhu. His story, *The Last Literary Man*, is a seminal work.

It is set in the year 2072. The protagonist is a student named Ibrahim, who loves literature and decides to devote his life to it. He hopes that after completing his education he will be able to join a faculty of literature at a nearby university but, as time goes on, he finds that the school faces imminent closure because the art of literature is dying a painful death. He is bitterly disappointed and begins to fear that literature itself will become extinct.

He writes a very effective poem as part of his personal campaign to keep the art alive, but because of the decadence into which his society has fallen, no newspaper will publish it. Finally, one publication agrees to run it, its editor laboring under the misconception that it is an advertisement for an inn in the country. Ibrahim is obliged to pay for its publication.

He continues publishing, his work in this manner until he comes close to bankruptcy. Soon, his house and all his remaining possessions are claimed by his creditors and he is left penniless. He writes a last poem, called *Between Disappointment and Hope*, in which expresses his profound and bitter sorrow.

In this work, Ahmad Huhu deals with the dislocation of society when it is suddenly confronted with industrialization. It is a moving lament for the death of art.

The Last Literary Man is not the only work that is set in the future. Muhammad Hassan Awad published his *Utopia* in 1926. The story is in the form of a letter written by a young girl in the 25th century, to her brother who lives in another city of the Arabian Peninsula. She tells him of their grandparents' life in the 20th century. It is a yearning for the simple, close family life of the past.

The second stage of Saudi literature, taking World War II as a convenient divide, is an era of more mature, effective writing. At this time, more and more Saudi students were returning from their

education in foreign countries. The country was gradually becoming more exposed not only to the West but to the cultural ferment of the Arab world. Newspapers and magazines poured into the kingdom from foreign countries and the effect on Saudi fiction was one of increased sophistication and experimentation.

Hamid Damanhuri is one of the most important figures of contemporary Saudi writing. He was educated at Cairo University and, with his excellent English, was able to explore the literature of the West.

Only two of his works can be called novels. The first was *The Price of Sacrifice*, published in 1959, and the second was *An I Duvu have Passed*, published in

1963.

The former is set in Cairo and Mecca. It is the story of Ahmad the son of Al-Sheikh Abdul Rahman, a merchant, and Fatemah, his cousin.

Ahmad is educated in a school on a grant from the government and when he completes his studies, he is selected to continue his education on a government scholarship in Cairo. He hopes to become a doctor. Ahmad's father refuses to let him go, saying that he wishes to protect his son from the rigors of travel and from the inevitable homesickness.

Ahmad is prostrate. He begs his father to let him go and finally wins his case. Before he is allowed to go to Cairo, he is betrothed to his cousin Fatemah.

A diligent student, Ahmad meets virtually no one in Cairo until he becomes acquainted with one Mustafa Lutfy. Once, while at Mustafa's house, Ahmad catches a glimpse of Mustafa's sister, Fayza. He is infatuated with her. He thinks of nothing else but her but he forces himself to work, to forget his love for Fayza and to remember Fatemah, innocently waiting for him back home.

News reaches Cairo of the death of his uncle. He returns to Mecca after his six years in Cairo and marries Fatemah.

The writer succeeds in describing the life of an average Saudi family and deals with a social problem which only grows more acute as Saudi students study abroad: the foreign wife.



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'To avert catastrophe'

W. European statesmen urge reform of economic system

LONDON, Dec. 18 (R) — A commission of leading international statesmen has called for urgent and major reform of the world economic system to avert catastrophe.

Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, chairman of the group seeking ways to narrow the gap between rich and poor countries, said: "The world economic system of the last three decades has ceased to work effectively."

"We all believe it needs urgent and major reform and restructuring."

The Nobel peace prize winner

was speaking to a news conference Monday about a report endorsed this weekend in Leeds Castle, southern England, at the final meeting of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues (ICIDI).

The report by the 18-member commission, set up two years ago as part of the North-South dialogue will be given to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim early next year. It will then be published.

The commission includes former Premier Olof Palme of Sweden, Britain's ex-Prime Minister

Edward Heath and Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal.

"The existing international economic arrangements are increasingly unstable, Brandt said. "Stocks of arms are piling up after hunger, chaos threatens, after chaos war. Urgent and drastic steps must be taken to avert impending catastrophe," he added.

The commission outlined an emergency program to help solve the world's short-term problems and serve the mutual interests of all nations.

Among proposed measures disclosed Monday were: — A large-scale transfer of funds to developing countries. — An agreement on the security of energy supplies and conservation. — Reforms in the monetary system and means of financing development.

Brandt said increased aid to developing countries on an automatic basis would allow long-term planning. It would also create new markets and stimulate production in industrialized countries.

He added that oil-producing countries could stabilize supplies and agree to regular price increases. In return, industrial countries could safeguard the producers' earnings and cut energy consumption.

The commission's report called for an international summit conference to try and push through these reforms.

As part of proposed long-term reforms, it urged the structural reform of the world's economic system.

Brandt said the commission suggested the establishment of a world development fund which could include communist states and would channel money to developing countries.

The new fund could be financed by "a modest levy" on international trade, seabed minerals and armaments, he added.

Brandt praised the role of international institutions such as the World Bank and said the bank should be empowered to do more financing of Third World development.

Although the commission had agreed on fundamental issues, Brandt added: "All the world's peoples are threatened by economic instability which in return creates political instability."

When spot prices rise Japan asks companies to release stockpiles

TOKYO, Dec. 18 (R) — The Japanese government has asked the country's oil firms and importers to release part of their private stockpiles when spot oil prices rise sharply, trade and industry ministry officials said Tuesday.

The government would also continue to use its own stockpile as needed to prevent firms and importers buying at inflated prices on the spot market, they said.

The moves follow assurances from Japan last week to the United States that it would stop Japanese importers buying Iranian oil at exorbitant prices.

After talks with U.S. officials in Washington Japanese Vice-Trade Minister Naohiro Amaya said his government had no legal means of enforcing its directive against further purchase of spot market Iranian oil. But he said it could be achieved by price controls that would remove the profit from such deals.

The Japanese government also assured a U.S. special envoy Tuesday that it would keep in step with West European countries in cooperating with U.S. financial and economic sanctions against Iran.

U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Carwell obtained the assurance at a meeting with Deputy Vice-Foreign Minister Hiromichi Miyazaki and Vice-Finance Minister for International Affairs Takehiro Sagami, government sources said.

But the sources refused to say what form Japanese cooperation

would take.

Carwell, who arrived on Sunday, told them that unless Japan and West European countries cooperated the U.S. sanctions would not be effective to help secure the release of the 50 American embassy hostages in Tehran, they said.

Before Carwell's departure Tuesday the U.S. embassy issued a brief statement saying:

"Carwell was assured by prime minister (Masayoshi) Ohira that in Japan's view immediate release on the hostages is of the highest priority in the current situation and that actions of the Japanese government would support this objective."

"He was encouraged that to this end Japan would keep in step with European countries in its financial and economic relations with Iran."

But the sources said that Carwell had been told that Japan would keep buying Iranian oil at the level that existed before the taking of the hostages and continue paying for it.

The level is 620,000 barrels a day or 12 per cent of its total imports.

On a number of occasions, Japan, which depends almost totally upon imports for its oil needs, has told the U.S. it must keep buying Iranian oil.

The Japanese government has already applied restrictions on the purchase of Iranian oil by Japanese importers at inflated prices on the spot market.

As supplement to gasoline

Experts testing tropical plant

CURVELO, Brazil, Dec. 18 (AP) — Experts have turned to cassava, the tropical plant that produces tapioca, as a source of alcohol to supplement gasoline, and they have high hopes its use will become more widespread.

For several years Brazil has been transforming some of its massive sugar cane output into alcohol fuel or fuel additive.

But a pound of cassava yields three times as much alcohol as sugar cane so the government built a plant here, 615 kilometers north of Rio de Janeiro, to crank out 16,000 gallons of alcohol from the root daily.

"Our cassava distillery basically is an experiment, even though it's already producing on a relatively large scale. The idea is for Brazil to structure know-how in this field, which is completely new," said Vicente Veneza Ferreira, an

alcohol specialist with Petrobras, the government oil company.

Brazil has drawn world attention for its work with gasohol — a gasoline alcohol mix for cars — and one fuel outlet in the nearby city of Belo routinely sells gas with a 20 per cent cassava alcohol mix, which cars can use without modification.

About 2,000 cars in the nation are designed to run strictly on alcohol and the auto industry plans to have 250,000 alcohol-run cars in operation by next year.

Officials said alcohol-burning cars get 10-15 per cent poorer mileage than gas burners because alcohol is a lower octane. But sugar-produced alcohol costs \$1.01 a gallon, while premium gasoline costs \$3 a gallon. Brazil imports 85 per cent of its oil.

Kuwait airs concern over frozen assets

KUWAIT, Dec. 18 (AP) — The chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged the Arab states Tuesday to learn a lesson from the freeze of Iranian assets in U.S. banks while investing surplus petrodollars in the west.

"I don't rule out the eventual possibility of the Gulf countries receiving the same treatment as Iran if they decided to shift their investments from the United States," said Abdul Aziz Hamad Al-Sagor in a television statement.

Al-Sagor was the second Kuwaiti official to urge the Arabs to boycott U.S. banks. Last week, Finance Minister Abdul Rahman Atiqi denounced the freezing of Iranian assets as contrary to international banking rules.

Al-Sagor and Atiqi agreed that the Arabs must reduce their production rates of crude oil without delay, to avoid accumulating unnecessary money.

Iraq to build \$132m natural gas complex

TOKYO, Dec. 18 (AP) — Mitsubishi Corp. and Chiyoda Chemical Engineering and Construction Co., both of Japan, said Tuesday they have signed a \$132 million contract to build a natural gas liquid (NGL) plant in Iraq.

Under the contract with Iraq's State Organization for Oil Projects (SOOP), the two Japanese firms will build the plant at North Rumaila, northeast of Baghdad, by the end of April 1982, Mitsubishi officials said.

They declined to disclose other details such as payment terms and the production capacity.

Consolidated balance sheet of commercial banks issued

RIYADH, Dec. 18 (SPA) — The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) has released the following consolidated balance sheet of commercial banks.

The statement, released by the Saudi Press Agency Tuesday, took effect as at the end of Shawal 1399

ASSETS		(In millions riyals)
1) Cash in hand and deposits with SAMA	15,333.2	
2) Balances due from Banks outside	10,595.9	
3) Balances due from Banks in Saudi Arabia	271.6	
4) Loans, Advances and Discounts	23,964.6	
5) Investments	1,377.9	
6) Other Assets	4,096.5	
7) Contra Accounts	49,470.5	
TOTAL	105,110.2	

LIABILITIES		(In millions riyals)
1) Capital & Reserves	2,412.4	
2) Balances due to Banks abroad	4,046.7	
3) Balances due to Banks in Saudi Arabia	—	
4) Demand, Time and Saving Deposits	34,321.4	
5) Other deposits	6,418.6	
6) Other Liabilities	8,440.6	
7) Contra Accounts	49,470.5	
TOTAL	105,110.2	

Wall Street

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 — The market edged up in positive territory throughout the session, falling off in late Monday afternoon trading after having rallied over 8 pts. At the bell the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.87 to 844.62, Dow Jones Industrial Transport up 1.4 to 254.38, and Dow Jones Utilities added 27 to 109.74. Volume of trading for the day was 43.9 million shares. Breadth was on the positive side as gainers outnumbered losers 866 to 697 and 398 issues unchanged. The Amex gained 3.54 on the day to 244.15.

Stocks turned in a generally mixed performance across the board. In the growth and glamour sectors, Abbott Labs rose 5/8 to 42.58, Pfizer up 1/2 to 41, Digital Equipment lost 1 1/2 to 67 3/4, Honeywell fell 1 1/2 to 83 1/4, Texas Inst. down 1 1/2 to 90 1/4, Polaroid lost 1 to 27 1/4, and CBS rose 1 to 51. Energy issues were strong with Freeport Minerals up 4 1/2 to 61 1/2.

MESARose 1 to 62 1/4, Std. Oil of Ohio gained 2 1/4 to 90, Gulf up 1 1/2 to 36 1/4, Schlumberger down 1 1/2 to 85 1/4, Texas Oil and gas rallied 2 1/2 to 63 1/4, Transco up 1 1/2 to 43 1/4, Utd. Energy Resources rose 1 1/2 to 66 1/4, and Murphy Oil gained 2 1/2 to 90 1/4. In the basic industry sector, Colt Inds. lost 1 1/2 to 46 1/4, Republic Steel off 1/2 to 24 1/4, Monsanto up 1 to 59, Stauffer rose 1/2 to 20 1/4, Great Northern Nekoosa lost 1/2 to 33 1/4, Weyerhaeuser up 1/2 to 31 1/4, Owens Corning advanced 2 to 29 1/4, and Financial Federation fell 1/2 to 29 1/4. In the auto and machinery groups Ford fell 1/2 to 33, G.M. down 1/2 to 52 1/4, Deere rose 1/2 to 38 1/4, Int'l Harvester up 1/2 to 38 1/4, Ingersoll Rand lost 1 1/2 to 53 1/4, and Parker Hannifan down 1 to 27 1/4. Supplied by Merrill Lynch International Co. P.O. Box 5399, Manama, Bahrain Tel.: 258644.

Saudi Arabian Government Tenders

Authority	Description	No. of Tender	Price SR	Closing Date
Directorate of Education, Medina	Construction of the fifth instalment of ordinary schools	200	200	Dec. 30
" " "	Construction of the sixth instalment of ordinary schools	200	200	Jan. 1
" " "	Construction of the seventh instalment of ordinary schools	200	200	Jan. 1
Municipality of Al-Omran	Supply of insecticides and other chemical materials	99/1400	500	Jan. 8
Directorate of the National Guard	Additions to the shooting ranges in Bahra, Western Province	19-99/400	300	Jan. 1
" " "	Additions to the shooting range in Abha	18-99/400	300	Dec. 29
" " "	Supply of spare parts for Landrovers and Rangrovers	20-99/400	1000	Jan. 5

Foreign Exchange Rates

Quoted at 5:00 P.M. Tuesday

	SAMA	Cash	Transfer
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.377	3.3725
Pound Sterling	7.39	7.48	7.45
Deutsche Mark (100)	193.00	195.50	194.50
Swiss F (100)	208.00	212.00	210.50
French F (100)	83.00	83.50	83.10
Italian Lira (10,000)	42.00	42.50	41.80
Lebanese Lira (100)	—	100.50	99.50
Syrian Lira (100)	—	78.50	86.90
Egyptian Pound	—	4.45	4.52
Jordanian Dinar	—	12.52	12.30
Emirates Dirham (100)	—	11.35	11.30
Qatari Riyal (100)	—	86.60	89.60
Bahraini Dinar	—	91.25	91.25
Iranian Riyal (100)	—	8.96	8.96
Iraqi Dinar (100)	—	26.00	—
Yemeni Riyal (100)	—	10.10	—
Moroccan Dirham (100)	—	74.40	74.00
Indian Rupee (100)	—	82.50	89.50
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	—	41.85
Gold kg.	—	50,800.00	—
10 Tolas bar	—	5,950.00	—
Silver kg.	—	—	—
Japanese Yen (1,000)	13.90	—	14.15
Canadian Dollar	2.87	3.00	—
Belgian Franc (1,000)	119.00	119.00	—
Dutch Guilder (1,000)	176.00	177.00	176.50
Spanish Peso	—	51.30	51.40
Greek Drachma (1,000)	—	82.00	—
Philippines Peso (1,000)	—	—	47.00
Singapore	—	—	1.57

Cash and Transfer rates supplied by Al-Rajhi Company for Currency Exchange and Commerce, Gabel St., Jeddah — Tel.: 23815.

PORTS AUTHORITY JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT

SHIPS MOVEMENTS UP TO 0700 HOURS ON THE

18TH DECEMBER, 1979

29TH MOHARRAM, 1400

SHIP	VESSEL	AGENT	CARGO	ARRIVAL
1	Mahadley	S.E.A.	Barley/General	15-12-79
2	Dorika	Alpha	Bagged Barley	14-12-79
3	Archangelon 'G'	Algeria	Bagged Barley	17-12-79
4	Atlantic Freeder	O.C.E.	Vegetables/Chicken	13-12-79
5	American Star	Barber	Wheat/General	15-12-79
6	Phoenix	A.E.T.	Tyres/Wire/General	15-12-79
7	Nyoma Chou	Alana	Durum/Oil/Cake	12-12-79
8	Al Had	BeAboud	Containers	14-12-79
9	Atlanta	Alana	Containers	15-12-79
10	Mini Lanes	Roloco	Slits	15-12-79
11	Odyessa	Roloco	Slits	15-12-79
12	Sopwell	S.C.S.A.	Wheat/Barley	14-12-79
13	Capetan Marinos	Kanoo	Containers/General	14-12-79
14	Marilyn 'L'	Red Sea	Marble/General	14-12-79
15	Marco Polo	Algeria	Vegetables/Poultry	13-12-79
16	Costas	O.C.E.	Vegetables/Poultry	17-12-79
17	Gala Garibaldi	Star	Chicken/Fruit/Cheese	15-12-79
18	Printheus	O.C.E.	Barley	14-12-79

RECENT ARRIVALS:

Archangelon 'G'	Algeria	Bagged Barley	17-12-79
Marilyn 'L'	Red Sea	Marble/General	17-12-79
Costas	O.C.E.	Vegetables/General	17-12-79
Antinoh 'A'	Algeria	Durum/Oil/Cake	17-12-79
Slid De Sea Bros	O.C.E.	Apples	16-12-79
Werbeline	Shobodah	Containers	16-12-79

VESSELS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS:

Taurus	M.T.A.	General	16-12-79
Burco Ferry	Gulf	Sugar	16-12-79
Melina Tairis	El Havi	Timber	16-12-79
Nefes 2	Kanoo	Steel/General	16-12-79
Christina Isabela	Kanoo	General/Containers	16-12-79
Badr	Barcom	Durum	16-12-79
Onyx	O.C. Trade	Bananas	16-12-79
Sky Reader	El Havi	Eggs/Bananas	16-12-79
Demar	O.C.E.	Eggs/Apples	16-12-79
Anahis	O.C.E.	Fruit	16-12-79
Fatha	H.S.E.C.	Ro Ro	16-12-79
Antinoh 'L'	Algeria	Durum	16-12-79

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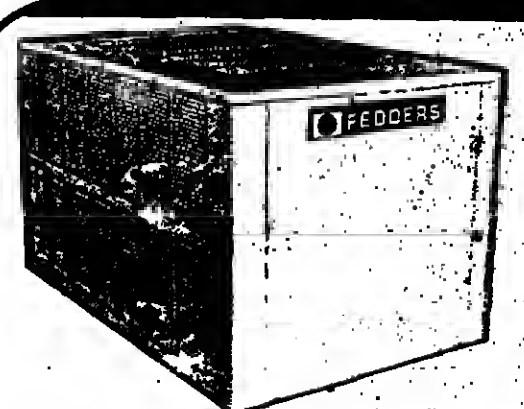
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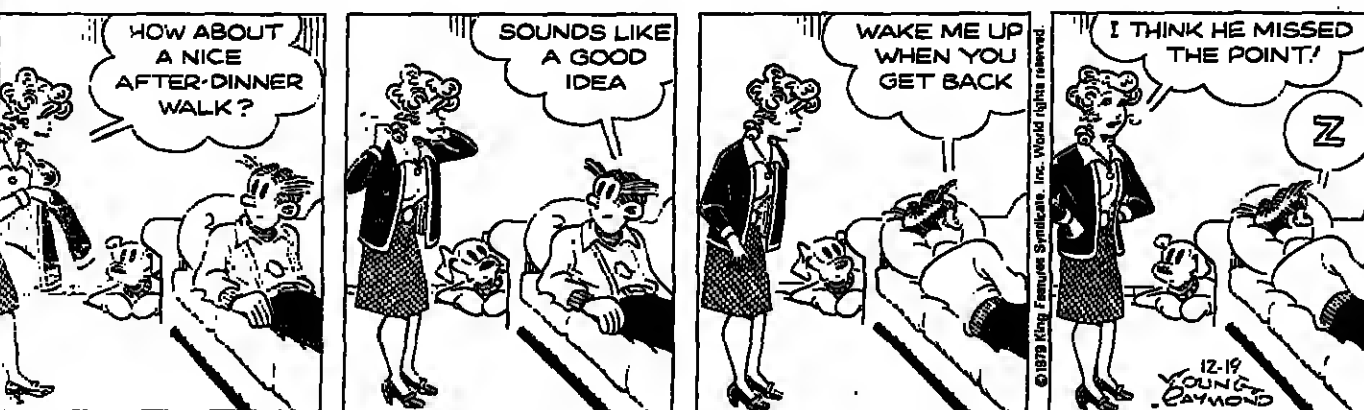
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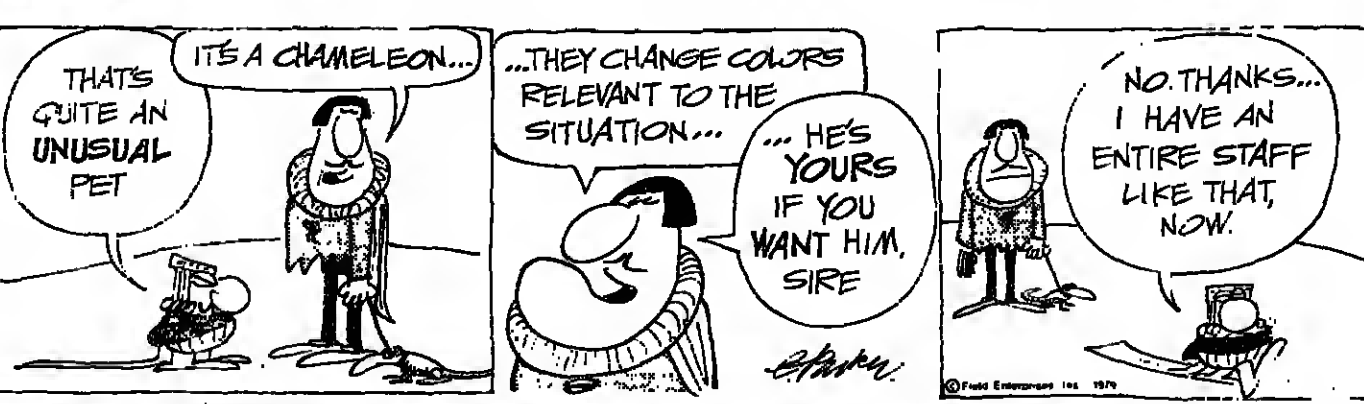
BEETLE BAILEY



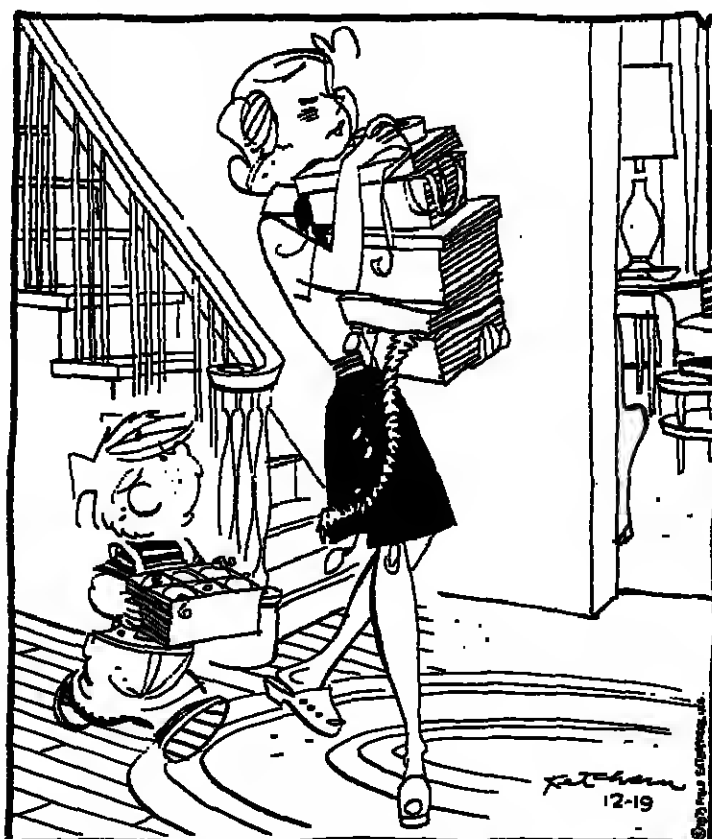
HAGAR



WIZARD



DENNIS THE MENACE



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 A thing of

5 Part of G.N.P.

11 Jacob's wife

13 "Shall We Dance?"

14 Turkish city

15 Knock

16 Official permit

17 Tool holder

18 Stupid

20 Have lunch

21 Shade of blue

22 Lug

23 Ground beef shape

25 Gaffe

26 Roman emperor

27 Puncture

28 American Indian

29 Upper, middle and lower

32 Moroccan mountain range

33 Slower, mus.

34 Cackler

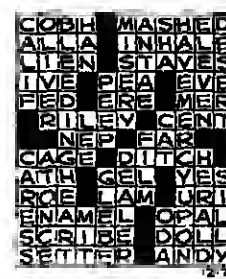
35 Blot out

37 French composer

38 Resolve

39 With fresh vigor

40 Stage scenery



Yesterday's Answer

19 Defense

20 Coarse

21 Hill points

22 Served

23 Congratulate

24 Set up in graduation

25 Vietnamese refugees

26 Forgoing

27 Roman historian

28 Belief

29 Caught

30 lamprays

31 Weather word

32 transit

33 gloria

34 New Guinea town

35

36

37

38

39

40

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE - Here's how to work it:

One letter simply stands for another. In this sample A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTES

XBVDQMR VE GUI UQM UGDF

KQGVZSHGI XUM DBAVGHEE

IZHMR VE BDEU IZH EQTTREE

UX UIZHME - LQDHE MRGRMY

Yesterday's Cryptquote: TWO CHEERS FOR DEMOCRACY: IT BECAUSE IT ADMITS VARIETY, AND TWO BECAUSE IT PERMITS CRITICISM. - E.M. FORSTER

ARAB NEWS CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

	Wednesday Fajr	Ishraq	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghreb	Isha
Mecca	5:33	6:59	12:24	3:28	5:45	7:15
Medina	5:38	7:04	12:26	3:24	5:40	7:10
Nejd	5:04	6:34	11:52	2:51	5:07	6:37

DHAHRAN TV

4:30	Children's Show	Sesame Street No. 1193
5:55	Safety Film	I'm no fool As A Pedestrian
6:25	Sanford And Son	The Wedding
6:49	Operation Petticoat	Dookey is a Daddy
7:37	Oregon Trail	Evan's Vendetta
8:26	Man in a Suitcase	Find the Lady
8:26	Baretta	It's a Boy
9:09	Warship	The Prize

VOA

P.M.	News Summary	10:30 VOC Magazine: America; Science; Cultural; Letter
8:00	News Roundup: Reports: Actualities: Opinion: Analyses	11:00 Special English: News
8:30	Dateline	11:30 Music USA: (Jazz)
9:00	News Summary: News: Feature, The Making of a Nation	VOA WORLD REPORT
9:30	Music USA: (Standards)	Midnight
10:00	News Roundup: Reports: Actualities	12:00 News newsmakers: voices: correspondents: reports: background: features: media: comments: news analysis.
10:05	Opening: Analyses	

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On SW at 11.855 MHz in 25 meter band
On MW at 1485 Kilohertz in 202 meter band

WEDNESDAY

Afternoon Transmission

2:00	Opening
2:01	Holy Quran
2:05	Gems of Guidance
2:10	Key to Their Success
2:20	On Islam
2:30	Round and About

3:00	NEWS
3:10	Press Review
3:15	Music
3:20	Science Journal
3:30	A Selection of Music

3:40	
3:50	Closedown

Evening Transmission

9:00	Opening
9:01	Holy Quran
9:05	Gems of Guidance
9:10	Light Music
9:15	Top of the Pops
9:45	Companions of the Prophet
10:00	A Viewpoint
10:10	Music
10:15	NEWS
10:25	S.A. A Daily Chronicle
10:30	Sounds Sweet and Strange
11:00	A Leaf on Life's Notebook
11:10	Music
11:15	Latin Music
11:45	A Rendezvous with Dreams
12:00	Closedown

(French Service)

Morning Transmission

8:00	Ouverture
8:02	Lumiere sur le Coran
8:15	Musique
8:30	Bonjour
8:35	Varietes
8:45	Occident et Orient
8:50	Varietes
9:00	Informations
9:10	Lumieres sur les Informations
9:15	Varietes
9:30	Radio Islamiques
9:35	Musique
9:59	Closure

Evening Transmission

7:00	Ouverture
7:02	Versets et Commentaires
7:15	Magazine de la semaine
7:45	En paroles et en chansons
8:15	Jeunesse et Sport
8:20	Varietes
8:30	Informations
8:40	Revue de la presse
8:45	Musique
8:55	Closure

BBC

Morning Transmission

8:00	World News
8:09	Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
8:30	Sarah Ward
8:45	World Today
9:00	Newsdesk
9:30	Opera Star
10:00	World News
10:09	Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
10:30	Sarah Ward
10:45	Something to Show You
11:00	World News
11:09	Reflections
11:15	Piano Style
11:30	Brain of Britain 1978
12:00	World News
12:09	British Press Review
12:15	World Today
12:30	Financial News
12:40	Look Ahead
12:45	The Tony Myatt
Evening Transmission	
1:15	Ulster in Focus
1:30	Discovery
2:00	World News
2:09	News about Britain
2:15	Alphabet of Musical Curios
2:30	Sports International
2:40	Radio Newsreel
3:15	Promenade Concert
3:45	Sports Round-up
4:00	World News

20.00 Twenty-Four Hours

4:30	The Pleasure of Yours
5:15	Report on Religion
6:00	Radio Newsreel
6:15	Outlook
7:00	World News
7:09	Commentary
7:15	Sherlock Holmes
7:45	World Today
8:00	World News
8:09	Books and Writers
8:30	Take One
8:45	Sports Round-up
9:00	World News
9:09	News about Britain
9:15	Radio Newsreel
9:30	Farming World
10:00	Outlook News Summary
10:39	Stock Market Report
10:45	Look Ahead
10:45	Ulster in Focus
11:00	World News
11:09	Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
12:15	Talkabout
12:45	Nature Notebook
1:00	World News
1:09	World Today
1:25	Financial News
1:35	Book Choice
1:40	Reflections
1:45	Sports Round-up
2:00	World News
2:09	Commentary
2:15	The Face of England

Your Individual Horoscope



Frances Drake

FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1979

What kind of day will tomorrow be? To find out what the stars say, read the forecast given for your birth sign.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Consider talking some courses to improve job skills. Show loyalty on the job. Stay clear of inter-office squabbles. Be impartial.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't overlook details re an investment plan. A second phone call will resolve tension at a distance. Be consistent with children.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Domestic problems could interfere with relationship harmony. Evading issues won't help matters either. Face problems for solutions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 21) Careless thinking can mar work efforts. Affection the key to transcending relationship difficulties. Be a good listener. Be supportive.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 22) Keep spending within reasonable limits. The pursuit of happiness could prove costly. Be willing to save time for record keeping.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) The accent is on domestic matters. Listen carefully to the opinions of family members. Children bring contentment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can do much to soothe an irritable person by day's end. Pay special attention to details and little squabbles of conversation now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Finances need watching. A friend may be lax about an obligation. Nevertheless, the p.m. favors socializing with old friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Show others you're conscientious and a career opportunity may be handed you. However, secure financial agreements in lieu of vague promises.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Someone at a distance is difficult or in difficulty. Forget past slights and display that loyalty that your sign is known for.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Settle only for irrevocable financial agreements. Otherwise, others may not keep their word. Friends may be a source of concern.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Career dealings require careful concentration now. Be alert. Do nothing to arouse other's jealousy. Loyalty brings affectionate responses.

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PAGE 12

International

But some transition problems still seen

Patriotic Front agrees to British Rhodesia ceasefire plan

LONDON, Dec. 18 (Agencies) — Rhodesia peace talks have finally achieved success with Patriotic Front guerrillas agreeing to end a seven-year bush war against white domination.

After 98 days of often acrimonious negotiation in London's Lancaster House, guerrilla leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe Monday night initialled an agreement.

A formal signing ceremony is planned for Wednesday — and that will be the signal for a ceasefire in a war that has enveloped Southern Africa and cost 20,000 lives.

Even after the initialling, the arguments continued. Britain wants the ceasefire to become fully effective in a week.

The Marxist Mugabe said it would not be possible. He said it may take seven weeks to spread word of peace among the guerrillas who have turned much of the Rhodesian bush into a war zone.

Mugabe also warned that he would pull out of the agreement if any side tried to dishonor it.

The guerrillas enemies, a coalition of moderate blacks and white settlers, have already agreed to a settlement. Their leader, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, is in Salisbury, where he welcomed the news.

The agreement was seen as a triumph for the conference chairman, Lord Carrington, a born-rich aristocrat who has been British Foreign Secretary only seven months.

Numerous other statesmen, among them former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, have failed in efforts to end the 14-year independence dispute in the British colony.

Britain has already sent a governor, cabinet minister Lord Soames, to take charge in Salisbury. The agreement enables him to organize fresh elections and hand over power to the winners.

The Patriotic Front will come out of the bush to fight the elections. Monday night its leaders told reporters they deserved the chief credit for the success of the conference.



Joshua Nkomo



Lord Carrington



Robert Mugabe



Lord Soames

"The settlement is the direct product of the sacrifice, sweat and blood of the fighting young men and women as well as the valiant revolutionary masses of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)," they said in a statement.

The Front's war began when former white Premier Ian Smith was still in power in Salisbury. It was Smith's refusal to hand over to black majority rule that triggered the whole dispute in 1965.

Although elated by the agreement, British officials were still talking cautiously. "This is a very important day for Rhodesia but there are still difficult times ahead," Deputy Foreign Secretary Sir Ian Gilmour told a press conference.

The governor, Lord Soames, will rely on a small force of 1,200 troops drawn from five nations — Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Kenya — to keep the 45,000 strong Rhodesian army and guerrillas apart during the election campaign.

The two armies will be accommodated in special camps. The settlement had been held up by arguments over how many camps the Patriotic Front should be allocated.

Finally it agreed on a total of 16 and the agreement was clinched.

Representatives of Britain and Muzorewa's biracial delegation initialled the accord Saturday.

Lord Carrington, is flying back from a visit to Washington for the signing ceremony. Muzorewa will be arriving from Salisbury, where he has been preparing his election campaign. Mugabe and Nkomo already are here.

The pangs of the London talks dealing with elections and constitutional matters were resolved earlier and Britain felt ready to send Soames to Salisbury. But the then talks looked as though they might founder over the last item on the agenda, cease-fire arrangements.

The Monday night breakthrough followed British concessions to Front demands for an increase in the number and position of the

assembly camps that its guerrillas will occupy during the brief period before elections.

Under the plan, both the Front and the Salisbury troops will be confined to camps during this period. But the Front argued that under the British plan it would be deprived of camps in some areas where it had local support. It also said that British estimates that put its guerrilla strength at 15,000 were too low. It said it had 30,000 and therefore merited more than the 14 assembly camps Britain was offering.

Britain finally agreed to up the number of Front assembly camps to 16 and allowed that one of the new camps should be near Gwelo in the strategic heartland of Rhodesia. The rest are on the periphery. Decisions on whether more Front assembly camps should be created will be left to Soames. The guerrillas will be under their own commanders in the camps and will live in tents.

The Salisbury troops will be confined to some 40 bases. Under the agreement, each side will be monitored by 1,200 Commonwealth troops, including at least 600 British troops, to see they do not violate the cease-fire.

In Salisbury, however Rhodesian and British officials predict that Rhodesia will continue to be wracked by war whoever wins the planned elections.

If pro-Western moderates headed by Prime Minister Muzorewa come to power, more than 58,000 guerrillas loyal to Mugabe and Nkomo will continue the fighting for control of the government, the administrators and security officers said.

If the guerrillas win, their ideologically and ethnically rival forces will become embroiled in civil war, they forecast.

"Whatever happens and whoever emerges victorious this country will still be in some state of war," a top Rhodesian military analyst says.

The officials don't discount the possibility of a mutiny by the white-led, mainly black army against any elected Nkomo-Mugabe government.

Lord Soames Tuesday welcomed the peace agreement reached in London as "news of the greatest significance." But he warned of difficulties which lie ahead.

Soames, who arrived last Wednesday to restore British rule to its rebel colony, issued a statement saying that if the agreement works, "The lasting peace we have all been hoping and looking for will be attainable."

"If it does not," he added, "then much that has been so painstakingly achieved will be brought to naught."

"Our task now is to prepare for free and fair elections which will bring Rhodesia to independence. No one underestimates the difficulties which lie ahead, but together we can and must overcome them."

Otherwise, reaction to the agreement in Salisbury was muted. Observers explained that Rhodesians have become somewhat immune to promises of peace while the seven-year-old guerrilla war has continued to escalate.

The city's major newspaper, *The Herald*, carried a headline reading "PF (Patriotic Front) agrees to ceasefire." But the headline deliberately led two stories — one about the London agreement, the other about the latest toll in the war.

In Washington, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she believed the Rhodesia settlement reached in London would be a lasting one — but not without problems.

"Will it stick? Yes, I believe it will. I don't mean that it will be trouble-free. Nothing is," she said in a television interview with CBS during her visit to Washington.

Urging that any future problems would be kept in perspective, Mrs. Thatcher said: "A democracy in Rhodesia, in the heart of central Africa, it will make an enormous difference to the whole future of Southern Africa."

Nearly 200 injured

Earthquake kills at least 25 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Dec. 18 (Agencies) — The death toll from a major earthquake that rocked the tourist island of Bali Tuesday has increased to 25 and nearly 200 persons were injured.

A police spokesman said rescue teams worked to clear the rubble and wreckage of homes, buildings and temples to look for people trapped in the debris.

He said about 80 per cent of the homes and buildings were either destroyed or badly damaged in Karangasem, on the western tip of Bali.

Communications and some roads leading to the district of Karangasem from Denpasar, capital of Bali, were cut.

However the quake did not do much damage on Denpasar itself. There was no report of casualty in the city.

The quake also rocked the neighboring island of Lombok. But it caused no significant damage, he said.

Police said the quake lasted for three minutes with short intervals, causing widespread panic.

The latest quake occurred Tuesday at 0300 local time (2000 GMT), catching most people in their sleep.

Thousands awakened by the quake in

Denpasar rushed out of their homes and refused to go back to their beds in fear of another quake.

Foreign tourists who packed the hotels along the sunny beach of Bali also ran out in panic, most of them only in shorts and some wearing nothing at all.

The office manager of the plush Bali Beach Intercontinental Hotel said many visitors were scared but unhurt. He said some windows were shattered.

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REPLACED: Portugal's non-party Prime Minister Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo registers her vote in Portugal's recent elections. Miss Pintasilgo will be replaced by Francisco Sa Carneiro, whose center-right Democratic Alliance won a majority of seats in parliament and also won most local elections Sunday.

Secure power base

Right widens Portugal control

LISBON, Dec. 18 (R) — Portugal's right-wing Democratic Alliance is preparing to play the dominant role in local government for the next three years after sweeping victories in town hall and parish council elections.

The triumph of the five-month-old alliance of center-right Social Democrats (PSD), Conservative Center Democrats (CDS), monarchists and dissident socialists has provided a secure power base for the new Alliance government when it is sworn in later this month.

Its local election gains confirmed the swing away from socialism seen at the general elections two weeks ago when the Alliance emerged with a six-seat majority in the new 250-seat parliament.

The unofficial final returns in the local elections showed the Alliance had won power in 196 of Portugal's 305 town councils and was heading for control of over two and a half times as many parish councils as the Communists and Socialists combined.

The Socialists, understandably demoralized by their poor showing at the general elections, were unable to prevent

their continued fall in popularity and managed to retain only 59 of the 115 town councils they held previously.

The Alliance ousted Socialist mayors from Lisbon, Oporto and the university town of Coimbra while the Communists, who won control of 50 town councils, pushed out a Socialist mayor in the port town of Setubal and took the lower middle class suburb of Amadora, a new electoral area.

Control of local government will be an important factor in the next 10 months as parties prepare for forthcoming general elections again in October 1980.

About 75 per cent of the six million eligible Portuguese turned out for last Sunday's polling, demonstrating that despite two attempted coups, five nationwide elections and 12 governments since the 1974 revolution swept away nearly half a century of right-wing dictatorship, the people were not disenchanted with voting as some feared.

The twin elections have called into question the future of the Portuguese Socialist Party and its leader, Mario Soares, according to local political commentators.

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Suspected IRA gunman shoots prison guard

BELFAST, Dec. 18 (AP) — A gunman has shot dead a prison guard near Belfast's Crumlin Road Jail on the same spot where another guard was assassinated two months ago.

Police sources Monday blamed the outlawed Irish Republican Army's "provisional" wing.

The slaying raised to seven the number of persons killed in Northern Ireland in the last 24 hours. Provisional IRA guerrillas Sunday killed five British soldiers, and a former member of the Ulster Defense Regiment, the

provinces militia force.

The attacks followed reports from Dublin, capital of the neighboring Irish Republic, that IRA commanders have vowed to intensify their campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

The reports also said the IRA does not plan a ceasefire at Christmas as they did between 1972 and 1975 in the territory's 10-year-old sectarian conflict.

The almost exclusively Roman Catholic IRA is fighting to reunite the Protestant-dominated province with the overwhelmingly Catholic republic.

Good Morning

By Jihad Khazen

The cold and the dark — both weary and economywise — have not prevented London from positively shining by the coming season of good cheer, of good will to all — at least in theory — and extravagant spending on food, drink and gifts, gifts, gifts. But do not worry, this will not be a sermon on "wither Christmas" on the rampant commercialism and the sentimentality and self-indulgence. The cause, with all due respect to those who like their Christmas otherwise, is well and truly lost — at least here in the West.

No, our worry is where we stand in all this, an Arab paper (*Asharq Al-Awsat*) most of whose readers think the last season of good cheer, etc. was with the last Eid, and that the next one will come in about ten months time. Do we do as in Rome, and stop publishing while our readers (or the majority of them) think that "something must have happened" that we have gone under in a strike (this, after all, is England), the land of "downing tools" of "work to rule" and "lightening stoppage" or succumbed to what is worse —

We were discussing the problem recently. There are, we decided, four solutions. To holiday whenever there is an Islamic holiday; and only then. Or, only when there is a Christian one. Or both. Or a hodgepodge of all, neither. The discussion got more and more involved — there is, it appeared, many a budding theologian in the works — and the mistake was made of bringing in for arbitration one of the colleagues who was working diligently outside. "The real question," he said, "is whether we mean it when we say we are an International Arab paper?"

"We do, we do," we all chimed in. "I will yield to no man on this," shouted one of the publishers, rather rashly. "Ah," said our wise friend, "in this case, it would be rankest disrespect to all if we don't take both holidays — and in full." Shouts of support from the shop floor, groans from publishers and editors.

"And furthermore," said the speaker warning to his theme, "the question is not merely of religious holidays. What about national holidays for each and every Arab? What about such pure occasions of festive joy as Somali Tree Day and Tunisian Boy Scouts Day? What about Days for each and every state, birthdays of Kings and Presidents, United Nations Day, Arab League Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day..."

"Then," shouts the man still, over all the chaos, "International means International. There is Fourth of July Day and Lenin Day, there is the Queen's accession and birthday — we are her guests here, you know — then there is... His voice was lost in the general din, which went on and on until, after a great deal of shouting for order, the meeting was brought under control again.

Pale and trembling, the publisher asks — "how many days will that be?" "I have worked it out. 335 days. This is internationalism, if you truly mean it. This means we have been working overtime all these months. I'm off to Acapulco..." The last words shouted as the optimistic colleague was being bodily ejected from the meeting and plunked back onto his desk, from which he should never have been called.

Translated From *Asharq Al-Awsat*

Thatcher denies Churchill case

Sydney suburb engulfed by fire

LONDON, Dec. 18 (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher says there is no need for a security inquiry into an affair between Conservative lawmaker Winston Churchill and Soraya Khashoggi, English-born ex-wife of businessman Adnan Khashoggi.

"I am satisfied there has been no breach of security in the public service," Mrs. Thatcher said in a written statement, read in the House of Commons Monday as the Tory premier was in Washington for talks with U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The statement was in reply to a question put by Labor lawmaker James Wellbeloved, Royal Air Force minister in the previous Labor government, whether security officials needed to look into the affair that Churchill admitted over the weekend.

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